

Scoil Naomh Bride, Blackwater

School Improvement Plan in Literacy – End of Year Report (2018/2019)

The areas identified for continued development during this school year were:

Oral Language

- We continued to timetable discrete oral language lessons –
 - Discrete oral language lessons were planned and timetabled, 30 minutes weekly. Junior Infants – Second class lessons were in line with the Primary Language Curriculum.
 - All teachers created a language learning environment – an environment where all pupils were encouraged to contribute/ 'have a go', with emphasis on enjoyment
 - We focused on developing and improving auditory memory skills.
 - Use of a variety of spoken texts

Reading

- Starlight Literacy Programme was introduced in Junior Infants and Second Class
- PM and Engage Literacy (levelled readers) were used from Senior Infants to Second Class – all pupils were reading books appropriate to their level of reading
- Core readers in Third/Fourth and Fifth Classes were supplemented with the use of novels from Wexford Library
- New novels were bought for Sixth Class and these were used in conjunction with novels from Wexford Library
- Comprehension Boxes and Engage Comprehension Box were used, where appropriate, from First to Sixth classes
- Phonological Awareness – formally taught in Junior Infants

Comprehension

- All nine comprehension strategies were covered during the year. It was felt, by all teachers, that more emphasis needed to be placed on the questioning strategy.

Writing Skills

The skills of writing were developed and modelled as part of the language learning process. The following categories were covered –

- Term 1: Procedural/Report writing
- Term 2: Narrative/Explanatory writing
- Term 3: Persuasive/ Recount writing

'Free Writing Copies' were again used by all classes, to afford pupils opportunities to write freely on topics of their choice, without correction.

In order to implement all of the above:

- Additional PM and Engage books were purchased
- Novels were purchased for use in Sixth Class
- Block loans of novels for use in Third/Fourth/Fifth/Sixth classes, from Wexford Library
- Co-operative reading groups were organised in Fifth/Sixth classes for the reading of class novels
- A number of teachers attended 'Guided Reading' seminar presented by Stephen Graham
- *Starlight Language Programme*, *'Building Bridges'* and *The Comprehension Box* were used in classes, as appropriate
- Timetables were agreed and drawn up so that station teaching was facilitated in Junior Infants – Second Class
- expertise and resources were shared during *Croke Park* hours
- During *Croke Park* hours Staff discussions took place on how the Improvement Plan for literacy was progressing
- Reference to Primary Language Curriculum

Resources used:

- PM and Engage books
- Novels were purchased for use in Sixth Class
- Phonological Awareness – 'Sounds Abound' and 'Sound Linkage'
- PM readers were bought specifically for use by SET team – to be used with individuals and small groups
- 'Starlight Readers', 'Comprehension Box', 'Engage Literacy Comprehension Box', 'Starlight Language Programme', 'Primary Language Curriculum Handbook 2017', 'Sounds Abound', 'Sounds Linkage', 'Leap into Literacy' (second class), 'Writing Genre – A Structured Approach'(PDST), 'Building Bridges of Understanding Handbook', 'Auditory Processing Activities'(Jeffries and Jeffries), 'Five Components of Effective Oral Language'(PDST)