

School Improvement Plan for Literacy 2023 – 2024

Target: To maintain the Standard Score of 100 for school year 2023 - 2024

Action	Who?	When?	Resources	Completed/ongoing?
<p><u>Reading Programmes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PM and Engage Readers will be used from Junior Infants to Third Class (levelled readers)/Fifth Class Selection of novels, supplemented by core readers will be used from 2nd class upwards. Continue using both 'Prim Ed' and 'Engage' Comprehension Boxes where appropriate. Red Squirrel decodable readers 	Class teachers	September 2019 – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starlight Readers Comprehension Box 	Ongoing
<p><u>Discrete Oral Language Lessons</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organize discrete oral language lessons according to the revised language curriculum and ensure that they are timetabled (30 minutes) All classes will cover oral language lessons, as laid out in Starlight Oral Language Programme 	Class teachers	September 2019 – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Starlight language programme Listening & Speaking (Folens) 3rd – 6th 'Five Components of Effective Oral Language' Speaking, Listening & Understanding (Speechmark) Auditory Processing Activities (Jeffries & Jeffries) Leap into Literacy (2nd Class) 	Ongoing
<p><u>Co-operative Learning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue co-operative reading activities from 3rd to 6th classes Use a similar format with the same role names 	All staff	September 2019 – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide variety, depending on lesson content 	Ongoing
<p><u>Phonological Awareness Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal teaching of phonological awareness skills in Junior Infants – 1st class Heggarty Phonemic Awareness Programme 	Junior Infant teacher and SET teachers	September 2019 – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auditory Processing and Expressive Lang. Activities Reading Zone – pre reading activity book Twinkl / Games 	Ongoing
<p><u>Agreed School Template</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All teachers will use the agreed school template for Primary Language Curriculum 	All class teachers	September 2019 – June 2023	Agreed school template	Ongoing

<p><u>Comprehension Strategies</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cover all 9 comprehension strategies over the two years Particular emphasis on the questioning strategy – literal, inferential, applied 	All staff	September 2019 – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building Bridges of Understanding Handbook Existing book 'bank' Primary Language Curriculum Handbook 2017 	Ongoing
<p><u>Free Writing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to afford children the opportunity to do free writing, at least once a week. Free Writing copies are monitored by class teachers but not corrected formally. 	All class teachers	September 2019 – June 2023	Free writing copy	Ongoing
<p><u>Continued Professional Development of Staff</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of Staff will continue to attend professional development courses Opportunities will be provided to share expertise and resources during Croke Park hours 	All Staff	September 2019 – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPD courses 	Ongoing
<p><u>Reading for Enjoyment</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue using DEAR time in all classes, on a weekly basis Buddy Reading programme – during the third term 	All class teachers	September 2019 – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Library books Class timetables during term 3 Using resources from Mobile Library 	Ongoing throughout the school year
<p><u>Writing genres-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all writing genres are covered, over the school year, so that the pupils have an understanding of the Purpose, Genre and Voice of written language. Procedural /report/ narrative /explanatory/ persuasive/ recount 	All class teachers	September 2019 – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing Genre – A Structured Approach (PDST) Leap into Literacy (2nd Class) Primary Language Curriculum Handbook 2017 Writing on topics covered in SESE... Jolly Phonics Ipads Agreed letter formation and rhymes Handwriting books 	Ongoing
<p><u>Letter formation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter formation is demonstrated and practised using Jolly Phonics on Interactive Whiteboard Children are encouraged to write in air, salt trays, Ipads and whiteboards Handwriting verses are used to aid and encourage correction formation Handwriting books are used to reinforce all of the above 	All class teachers	September 2019 – June 2021 – June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jolly Phonics Ipads Agreed letter formation and rhymes Handwriting books 	

Implementation / Monitoring / Review

- This Literacy Improvement Plan will be implemented by all Staff during school years 2019 – 2021 – 2023 - 2024
- Teacher observation is a key tool in monitoring progress of this Literacy Improvement Plan
- Discussion at Staff meetings every term – the plan will be updated, as necessary, following each review.

Success Criteria / Evaluation

- Teacher observations will be noted and collated.
- Standardised testing at the end of each school year – data will be analysed at the end of the year to track pupil performance.
- Review of children’s written work.

Ratification and communication :

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Bride, Blackwater, on Oct 26th 2023 Parents may view this plan at the school, by appointment with the Principal.

Signed : 

Scoil Naomh Bríde, Blackwater

School Improvement Plan in Literacy – End of Year Report (2022/2023)

Target: An average Standard Score of 100 should be achieved in Drumcondra Standardised Test (new) by the end of school year 2022/2023.

At the end of school year 2022/2023 the average score was 102.16. A four year school plan for improving literacy was introduced in Scoil Naomh Bríde during the school year 2019/2020. The plan was devised following analysis of standardised test results administered to pupils and the findings from questionnaires completed by parents, pupils and teachers were also taken into account. The main area identified for improvement average standard score in the Drumcondra Standardised Test (new).

Below are the actions that were taken in an effort to achieve the average Standard Score of 100 in Drumcondra Standardised Test (new):

Reading Programmes

- PM and Engage Readers were used from Senior Infants to Third Class (levelled readers)/Fifth Class
- Decodable books were introduced in Junior Infants.
- Selection of novels, supplemented by core readers, were used from 2nd class upwards.
- Continued using both 'Prim Ed' and 'Engage' Comprehension Boxes, where appropriate.

Comprehension

- Books were sourced and Building Bridges boxes were placed in each classroom. This box contains –
 - Two books to focus on each of the comprehension strategies. Each strategy was reviewed at the beginning of each month at Croke Park meetings. The main points were highlighted and all teachers received a comprehension handout regarding each strategy.
 - The strategies were –
December: Think Aloud; January: Prediction; February: Visualisation
March: Making Connections; April: Questioning; May: Clarifying;
June: Declunking
- Guiding Comprehension Teaching for Meaning PDST manual was highlighted to all Staff as an excellent comprehension resource. A timetable for teaching the comprehension strategies was created and shared with all Staff, on the drive. It is also on display in the Staff room.

Discrete Oral Language Lessons

- Organized discrete oral language lessons according to the revised language curriculum and ensured that they were timetabled (30 minutes)
- All classes covered oral language lessons, as laid out in the Starlight Oral Language Programme

Co-operative Learning

- Introduced co-operative reading activities from 2nd to 6th classes
- Used a similar format with the same role names.

Phonological Awareness Training

- Formal teaching of phonological awareness skills in Junior Infants
- Four teachers attended P.A.T. CPD, in conjunction with the UFLI and Heggarty programmes,

Agreed School Template

- All teachers used the agreed school template for Primary Language Curriculum

Continued Professional Development of Staff

- Members of Staff continued to attend professional development courses
- Opportunities were provided to share expertise and resources during Croke Park hours

Reading for Enjoyment

- Continued DEAR time in all classes on a weekly basis
- Buddy Reading programme – during the third term