

Meánscoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Cill Chainnigh **Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny.**

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Literacy Plan 2014-17 Review May 2017

Discussion Document 2013

The key to a successful Literacy Policy is **cultural change**. While structural, academic and pedagogical alterations are of value and immediate importance, research indicates that the long term success of a literacy initiative depends on the willingness and capabilities of the organisation to change or broaden their culture to accommodate this new set of values. To this end, schools should endeavour to create **a reading culture** within the school.

This will be by no means an easy task, flying as it does in the face of social changes within society at large. The creation of this culture should be focused around one simple message : **Words Matter!** The form, genre or mode through which students engage with this message is and must remain of secondary importance within the culture at large; if not within the specific teachings of the individual classroom.

To be successful in creating this reading culture we will need the following:

- High visibility
- Whole school participation and buy in.
- An inclusive, non-academic approach.

Literacy In The CBS: Identified Strengths and Weaknesses 2014

Strengths

- 50% of students across both year groups profess to love reading.
- Over 40% of 1st years read over 4 books a year.
- Awareness of the importance of planning and structuring pieces of writing increases from 16-27% of students from 1st year to 2nd year.
- 40 - 50% of students feel positively about school based writing competitions and initiatives.
- 74% of students feel that accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling are either important or very important

Weaknesses

- A doubling of the number of students who don't read for pleasure at all from 1st year to second year.
- A significant increase (1-6%) in the number of students who feel that accurate grammar, spelling and punctuation is of no importance, from 1st year to 2nd year.

Agreed Targets and Actions Literacy Plan 2014 - 17

Targets	Actions	Review
<p>To arrest the decline in the number of students who read for pleasure from 1st year to second year (86% - 72%) by 3% by 2017</p> <p>Increase the % improvement in reading ages from 1st to 2nd year for the lower two cohorts (< 10 years and 10 - 12 years)</p>	<p><i>Book In The Bag Policy 1st/2nd/4th</i></p> <p><i>Reading Record</i></p> <p><i>Editing Checklist</i></p> <p><i>1st year Literacy Class</i></p> <p><i>Resource sharing Literacymaterials@cbskillkenny.ie</i></p> <p><i>Literacy Week</i></p> <p><i>L.S.D Reading Programme 2nd years</i></p>	<p><u>The creation of a reading culture within the school</u></p> <p>Target Reduction 3%</p> <p>Realised Reduction</p> <p><u>Improvement of 1st/2nd year reading ages</u></p> <p>Comparative analysis of reading age scores over the duration of the plan to be undertaken by The Learning Support Department September 2017</p>

<p>To reduce the percentage increase in the number of students going from 1st Year to 2nd Year who feel that grammar, spelling and punctuation are of no importance from 6% to 2% by 2017</p>	<p>Permanent vocabulary section</p> <p>Vocab section in all note copies/ all subjects</p> <p>Pre-teach vocab</p>	<p><u>Student Perception as to the Importance Of Literacy Skills:</u></p> <p>Target Reduction 6% - 2%</p> <p>Realised Reduction</p>
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<p>To improve learner outcomes in State Examinations and to increase the uptake of Higher Level English at Junior Certificate Level from 83% to 85% by 2017</p>	<p>All teachers to use A.F.L techniques.</p> <p>Higher order questioning</p> <p>English Dept to review E&C reports.</p> <p>Mr Clarke to provide appropriate L.S</p>	<p><u>Learner Attainment Outcomes</u></p> <p>Comparative analysis of Junior Cycle English results to be undertaken September 2017</p>
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<p>To increase the number of students who are comfortable speaking and sharing their ideas in front of the class from</p>	<p>1 research and presentation task 1st/2nd yr</p>	<p><u>Oral Literacy</u></p>
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<p>87% at the end of 2nd year to 93% by 2017. (Oral Literacy:Key Skill)</p>		<p>Target Increase 6%</p> <p>Realised Increase</p>
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<p>Digital Literacy: (Key skill: Managing myself)</p> <p>To increase the % of students who get a chance to learn in class through research, project work and technology from 24% at the end of 2nd year (11% and 13% respectively) to 30% by 2017</p>	<p>Teachers to permanently display email addresses.</p> <p>Increased digitalisation of subject departments</p> <p>Creation of a digital literacy and numeracy class 1st and 2nd years.</p>	<p>Digital Literacy</p> <p>Targeted Increase 6%</p> <p>Realised Increase</p>
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S.S.E Literacy Plan: Implementation Review 2017

Q1. Have you used the Book In The Bag strategy during free periods this year?* Required
1st/2nd/4th year classes only where no work is assigned

	2015	2017
Always	19%	22%
Sometimes	62%	76%
Never	9%	2%

Q2. Is there a permanent Vocabulary whiteboard or section of the whiteboard in your classroom?*

	2015	2017
Yes	67%	76%
No	3%	2%
Don't have own classroom	30%	22%

Q3. Is your school e-mail address permanently displayed in your classroom?

	2015	2017
Yes	62%	68%
No	9%	5%
Don't have own classroom	29%	27%

Q4. Have you made mention to students of The Editing Checklist in their diaries in response to writing or presentation difficulties?* Required

	2015	2017
Yes	26%	73%
No	74%	27%

Q5. Do your 1st and 2nd year students have a designated spelling section of their copies?* Required

	2015	2017
Yes	50%	58%
No	50%	42%

Q6. Have you checked and signed 1st/2nd year students' Reading Records in their diaries?* Required

	2015	2017
Yes	9%	8%
No	24%	22%
Not a tutor / English teacher	67%	70%

Beyond The Plan: Literacy Into The Future

- The results of the student / teacher data currently being accumulated, in conjunction with the analysis of complete three year data in State Examinations and Learning Support Department reading age scores will be utilised to generate a final report in September 2017.
- This report will use the data to identify the successes and failings of the current plan and to form the basis for subsequent Literacy planning in CBS Kilkenny.
- It should be noted that all literacy planning as part of *The School Improvement Plan* is supplementary to the school's *Literacy Policy* and should seek to further the aims of this policy, which are outlined below:
 - To adopt a whole school approach to literacy across the curriculum.
 - To create a reading culture in our school.
 - To foster a love of language and an appreciation of its power and role in our lives.
 - To enable all students to reach their potential in the key literacy skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking.
 - To raise staff awareness of and participation in key literacy strategies.
 - To support and encourage staff in the development of literacy conscious planning within subject areas.
 - To create, resource and support the necessary structures in the school to ensure the success of Literacy Planning, while identifying specific roles and responsibilities within these structures.
 - To establish procedures for monitoring and assessing the success of Literacy Planning and resource them accordingly.

- The Rationale of our policy states:

'We believe that the key to a successful literacy policy is cultural change. While structural, academic and pedagogical alterations are of value and of immediate importance, it is our belief that it is the long term reshaping of values among the entire school population that is integral to success. To this end we have resolved to create a reading culture within our school. This culture will help further foster our students' love of language and their appreciation of its power, while at every level in our school communicating in the strongest possible terms the simple message: words matter!'

- The intention to create this culture underpins the actions adopted under the current plan and will continue to be fundamental to literacy planning beyond 2017. The support of the entire teaching staff and whole school community of these actions and continued fulsome participation in events such as Literacy Week is essential to this success.