



**St Finians Community College
Castlefarm,
Swords,
Co Dublin**

Roll Number 70120F

**School Improvement Plan
Literacy**

Evaluation period: September 2014/June 2016

Plan issue date: September 2014/June 2015

St Finian's Community College School Improvement Plan 11th June 2015

<p>Summary of main strengths as identified in last SSE in June 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is an acute awareness of literacy among staff that see themselves as having a key role to play in the development of literacy skills. All teachers see themselves as teachers of literacy• This is evidenced in department plans and schemes of work where additional columns on literacy and numeracy show how teachers are incorporating and developing literacy skills in their subject.• All teachers have adopted the Key Word Approach – and are teaching the curriculum through the explicit explanation of subject specific terminology• Print rich environments have been created using key words, visuals, labelled diagrams, word walls and word spirals• Teachers are deploying a variety of teaching methodologies to differentiate for the various learning needs within the classroom• Students progress is monitored through assessment for learning while teachers are reflective of own practice through assessment of learning activities.• As a DEIS school we have an excellent tradition of school development planning in literacy and numeracy, attention, retention, examination attainment, educational progression, partnership with parents and others. Collating and analysing data, setting targets, implementing measures and evaluating the same.• The majority of first years find their English classes interesting and engaging• Teachers explain things explicitly. Students feel encouraged and motivated.• 75% of first years feel their abilities in reading range from good to very good.• The school has a dedicated staff that is willing to volunteer their time to support and help students to improve literacy skills.• A strong literacy team who are willing to drive initiatives to raise the enjoyment of reading and reading abilities• 10 students moved from the below average range into the average range of reading ability reducing the number of students in this category from 20% to 11%. This is now significantly lower than the national norm for this category.• There was a slight reduction of students who were in the low average range- from 10 to 8%- this percentage is a
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	<p>lot lower than the national norm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of students in the average range having a sten score between 5 and 6 was reduced from 45 to 33%- this is now on a par with national norms. • There was a significant increase in the number of students moving into the high average range of reading abilities – from 6 to 16%. This is on a par with national norms. • There was a significant increase in the number of students who moved into the well above average range – from 20 to 32% - and this percentage is significantly higher than the national norm
<p>Summary of main areas requiring improvement as identified in last SSE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of using the key word approach by all teachers and creating print rich environments. • Continuation of whole school and specific initiatives to raise the profile of reading and improve reading abilities • Raise the reading abilities of 26 first years who have Sten scores between 1 and 3 from below average into the average range of abilities to scores of 4 or more • Raise the reading abilities of 9 second years who have below average Sten scores of 3 to an average Sten score of 4 or more • Continue to create more opportunities for students to read in school –Book in the bag , reading club, readathon etc. • The SSE theme for first years 2015/16 will be literacy. The component of literacy to be developed by all teachers of first year is oral language skills. • The SSE theme for second years is numeracy. The numeracy team will administer the Access Maths Test Form 1.Sten scores will be collated from the primary schools. Analysis of the data will inform the team of strengths and needs. A component of numeracy will then be chosen and all subject teachers will incorporate and develop this skill as far as possible in their practice. • More parental support required to encourage reading at home and help with homework • Increase the uptake of higher level English at both junior and senior cycle. Increase the number of students taking ordinary level English in the JCSP class
<p>Improvement targets (related to students’</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To continue to use whole school and specific measures to promote the enjoyment of reading and raise reading abilities • To raise the Sten scores of 18 first years from below 3 to a

achievement)	<p>Sten score of 4 or more</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise the Sten scores of 14 students in second year in the below average range to a sten score of 4 or more • To develop oral language skills of all first years • To implement a whole school numeracy strategy with 2nd years. • To increase the level of parental involvement in promoting literacy skills • Increase the uptake of higher level English at junior and senior cycle. • Increase the number of students in JCSP class taking ordinary level English
Required actions related to teaching and learning that will help to achieve the targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation of teaching the curriculum through the key word approach to raise vocabulary and comprehension • Continuation of whole school and specific initiatives to promote reading and the enjoyment of it within the school DEAR. Literacy day. Book in the bag. Reading Club. Readathon/Reading challenge. • Creation of more time for students to read in class- DEAR.Book in the bag. • Specific measures to raise reading abilities: Snip literacy Initiative. Paired reading programme. JCSP Literacy initiatives – buy a book; make a book, audio books, SRA reading laboratory, Reading Room. • Oral language development of first year- students make 2/3 minute presentation on topic of interest in every subject. More pair and group work. Oral instead of written homework • Teachers of 2nd year to incorporate same strategy to promote component of numeracy (percentages) - converting test results to a percentage. • Motivate and encourage students (who have the ability) to take higher level English
Persons responsible	<p>SMT. DEIS literacy leader. Literacy link teacher. Literacy team. DEIS committee members. All subject teachers. HSCL Officer. School completion team.</p>
Timeframe for action	<p>September 2015- May 2016</p>
Success criteria/ measurable outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre and post testing • Attitudinal surveys on reading, oral language skills and engagement in learning • Student’s class work. • Class tests and in house examinations

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parental surveys
Review date:	June 2016

As a parent you can help us by encouraging your child to read at home and helping with his/her homework.