School Improvement Plan

**Ramsgrange Community School**

**May 2015**

**Numeracy 2013/2014**

***The focus of our evaluation is to identify and assess areas of numeracy in need of improvement thereby developing practical, implementable and effective whole-school strategies which will enhance our students overall proficiency in areas of numeracy as identified by the data.***

**INTRODUCTION**

**Summary of our Main Strengths**

1. Our DEIS plan has focused on Numeracy and therefore;
	1. There is awareness of numeracy amongst staff and they see themselves as having a role to play in developing numeracy skills.
	2. Teachers wherever possible use concrete materials or link problems to real life.
	3. We actively encourage the involvement of parents in the advancement of their children’s numeracy skill levels through programmes such as Maths for Fun, delivered by trained parents.
2. A dedicated staff that is willing to engage with programmes in order to enhance student numeracy and professional development.
3. Parents are confident in their ability to help their child with numeracy issues.
4. Our cohort of first year students’ numeracy ability correlates positively with the STen norms.
5. Strong tradition and culture of cross-curricular activities.

**Summary of the areas prioritised for improvement**

1. The continued development of common teaching approaches to percentages, data gathering/analysis and language related to numeracy across the curriculum.
2. The continuous development of a numeracy rich environment.
3. Ensuring that first year students improve their competence in a range of mathematical concepts and operations identified by the criterion referenced test, such as percentages, data analysis and literacy for numeracy.
4. Embedding a culture of ‘numeracy confidence’ across the stakeholders in RCS.
5. Increasing the up-take of higher level maths both at junior and senior cycle.
6. Develop awareness around numeracy life skills Basic Maths and the role of all stakeholders in nurturing those skills.
7. The promotion of the Student Journal as a focal point for developing and implementing our numeracy strategy. Encourage the use of the Student Journal as a tool in developing Assessment for Learning strategies around numeracy.

**SIP Update as at May 2015:**

**Target 1**: **To increase the proportion of students taking higher level Maths at Junior Certificate from 30% to 35% by 2014 and to 40% by 2015**.

**Result Update:**

* 31.3% of Students sat Junior Cert Maths at HL in 2014. This was an increase of 1.3%.
* This fell short of the target by 3.7% but still showed an increase.
* The school recognizes the shortfall and projects such as the introduction of TL21, Algebra for Fun, Maths for Fun and MATHletes should help the further increase of those chosing to do Maths at HL.
* The target of 40% by 2015 has been re-adjusted to 38% as a more realistic, attainable target.

**Target 2: To increase the 2012/2013 1st year cohorts ability to gather and analyse data from 78% to 83% by the end of 2nd Year (2013) and 90% by the end of 3rd year (2014).**

**Results Update:**

* Students were set 3 tasks in line with this target.
	+ To gather and analyse graph data – Pie Chart
	+ To interpret the data and convert to Percentages
	+ To plot information onto a bar chart
* In the 1st task 82% of current 3rd years completed the task correctly – this falls short of the target set but demonstrates an increase in the cohorts ability to gather and analyse data by 4% from 78%.
* The target of 90% by 2015 has been re-adjusted to 85% as a more realistic, attainable target.
* 100% of students correctly plotted information onto a bar chart – this result far surpasses the target set and 100% will remain the target for next year’s cohort also.

**Target 3: All of 2012/2013 1st year student cohort will have a visual awareness of what percentages look like as part of a whole. All students should be able to convert their test results from fractions to percentages by Christmas.**

* Students were set 2 tasks in line with this target.
	+ To interpret the data and convert to Percentages
	+ To plot information onto a bar chart
* In the 1st task 76% of students successfully converted more than 90% of the fractions to percentages correctly.
* Given the diverse abilities of our students this is a very satisfactory result – the target is being re-set at 90% for 2015/2016 as a more realistic and attainable target.
* 100% of students correctly plotted information onto a bar chart – this result far surpasses the target set and 100% will remain the target for next year’s cohort also. This demonstrated students’ recognition of what a percentage looks like and an understanding of its value in terms of plotting a chart.

**Target 4: 80% of 2012/2013 1st year student cohort will have knowledge of basic numeracy terminology e.g. ‘solve, simplify, analyse, compare, the sum of….’ By the end of 2013/2014 and this will increase to 95% by 2014/2015 (21% at the beginning of 2012/2013).**

Target 4 is being addressed by the TL21 project. There is in-depth reporting and analysis available from the Principal or alternatively for an overview please go to [www.ramsgrangecommunityschool.ie](http://www.ramsgrangecommunityschool.ie). This whole-school initiative has been hugely successful and 2015/2016 will see it introduced to selected other subject areas in the school.

**Points of information**: Students asked to match up 10 Maths Words with their definitions (Provided by the Maths Dept)

* **3rd years**: (did not take part in TL21 Project)
	+ 12% of students matched 100% correctly
	+ 44% of students matched more than 70% correctly
	+ 46% of students matched more than 50% correctly
* **1st years**: (took part in the TL21 Project)
	+ 7% of students matched 100% correctly
	+ 36% of students matched more than 70% correctly
	+ 60% of students matched more than 50% correctly

**Numeracy Actions taken:**

* HL Maths is now the default for all 1st year students excluding those with SEN and numeracy related difficulties.
* Study skills seminars were provided for students during the school year by an outside agency – subsidized by the DEIS fund.
* Maths for Fun and Algebra for Fun were organized and rolled out by Parent Volunteers in conjunction with the HSCL Officer.
* The Assessment and Change of Level Policy is currently at 1st draft and will be brought to the BOM for ratification in May 2015.
* TL21 project – a whole-school Action Research project entitled “Literacy in Project Maths”. See TL21 folder or website for further details on this project.
* MATHletes was introduced by means of encouraging students to take part in this nationwide maths competition. RCS won the February and the March Cup – ranking 1st in the entire country Vs 225 other schools.
* Dedicated Maths noticeboard placed in prominent position in the school.
* SEN department time and resources
* 3 Maths teachers deployed in every year
* This list is not exhaustive.

**Further Actions – 2015-2016.**

* Continuation of the TL21 project – broadening its scope to include other subject areas.
* Finalising and publication of the ‘Assessment and Change of Level Policy’ which includes tracking of students’ progress throughout the school on different aspects of ability.
* Continued participation in MATHletes competition.
* Continued numeracy initiatives by HSCL to run in conjunction with Literacy initiatives.
* Addition to journal re: Change of Levels
* Study skills to be organized for relevant groups
* Continued promotion of Maths via CG, Maths Dept etc.
* This list is not exhaustive.

**When will it happen?**

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**Monitoring & Review**

These strategies will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis in order to assess;

1. The appropriateness of the targets set.
2. The level of engagement of those with specific responsibility as outlined above.
3. Improvements in the levels of numeracy in the key areas identified;
	1. Proportion of students taking higher level at Junior Certificate.
	2. Data Analysis and Presentation.
	3. Working with Percentages.
	4. Literacy for Numeracy.

**Ratification by the BOM.**

This SIP was considered and ratified by the BOM in June 2013.

This update was presented to the BOM on May 5th 2015.

**Publishing**

It has been agreed that the SSE and the SIP will be made available in an agreed report format on the schools website, [www.ramsgrangecommunityschool.ie](http://www.ramsgrangecommunityschool.ie)

**Further Information**

Further information may be obtained by stakeholders by contacting

**Post:** The Principal

Ramsgrange Community School

Ramsgrange

New Ross

Co Wexford

 **Phone:** 051 389211