School Improvement Plan

**Ramsgrange Community School**

**October 2016**

**Reviewed May 2017**

**Teaching & Learning 2016/2017**

***The focus of our evaluation is to identify and assess areas of Teaching & Learning with a particular focus on homework, specifically the transition from Junior to Senior Cycle.***

**INTRODUCTION**

**Summary of our Main Strengths**

1. There is awareness of the importance of homework as a teaching and learning tool amongst staff and they see themselves as having a role to play in developing homework skills, with particular focus on our 5th year students.
2. A dedicated staff that is willing to engage in strategies to improve and enhance the homework experience for students.
3. Parents are confident in their ability to help their child with Teaching and Learning Strategies as illustrated in our DEIS parental survey.
4. Provision of Homework Club at lunch-times and after- school study for students.
5. All students are provided with access to StudyClix in order to enhance their learning experience.

**Summary of the areas prioritised for improvement**

1. That meaningful homework is assigned to all students in all non-practical classes each day. This homework may take many forms: reading, revising, oral work, research, written or project work.
2. That all homework is clearly displayed either before the class begins or in the early stages of the class. Students are made aware of the homework and their requirement to take it down in school journal.
3. Sufficient time is allocated at some point in the lesson to explain the homework that has been assigned; this explanation should focus on key-words/ concepts/difficulties that may cause confusion while the student is completing the assigned work. Teachers will make suggestions/ recommendations and identify where the student may find the necessary information in order to achieve Learning Outcomes.
4. To raise the awareness of the importance of homework and to work towards embedding a culture where homework is seen as an integral part of teaching and learning for all stakeholders.
5. Develop awareness around effective homework feedback strategies amongst teachers and students.

# **Target 1 Giving of homework**

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| **Improvement Targets** |
| To increase the proportion of non-practical classes where homework is given from 48% to 60%. All homework should be clearly displayed either before the class begins or in the early stages of the class. Students should be made aware of the homework and their requirement to take it down in school journal.  |
| **Update on Target** |
| * **May 2017- students getting homework is currently 56%- an increase of 8%**
* **The target of 60% will be readjusted to 65%**
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# **Target 2 explanation of homework**

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| **Improvement Targets** |
| To increase the proportion of students who perceive that sufficient time is allocated at some point in the lesson to the explanation of homework from 16% to 50%.  |
| **Update on Target** |
| * \*75% of students said their teacher spent sufficient time explaining the homework in class
* This is an increase of 59%
* The target of 50% will be readjusted to 80% using the newly worded questionnaire\*

\*based on the feedback from the focus group the wording of the question changed in the 2nd survey, this accounts for the large jump in the “yes” percentage from 16% to 75% |

# **Target 3 Understanding of Homework**

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| **Improvement Targets** |
| To increase the proportion of students who understand the allocated homework from 32% to 50%  |
| **Update on Target** |
| * 48% of students feel that they understand the homework given,
* This is an increase of 16%
* The target will be readjusted to 70%\*

\*students understanding of this question seems to raise concerns that will need to be addressed with a second focus group as it does not correlate perfectly with target 2.  |

# **Target 4 Effective Feedback on homework**

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| **Improvement Targets** |
| To increase the proportion of students who receive feedback from their teachers from 76% to 85% |
| Update on Target |
| This is our main focus for the 2017/2018 academic year; we will undertake strategies to ensure that teachers employ a full range of feedback options and that students are fully aware of the various types of feedback that are in operation in the classroom. |

**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 Teaching & Learning with particular emphasis on homework in the key areas identified;
	1. Giving of Homework
	2. Understanding of Homework
	3. Explanation of Homework
	4. Effective feedback on Homework

**Board of Management of RCS**

This SIP will be considered by the BOM in 2017

An update of targets will be presented to the BOM in 2017/2018

**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

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