School Improvement Plan

**Ramsgrange Community School**

**Sept 2018**

**Numeracy 2018/2019**

***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. 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 and language related to numeracy across the curriculum.
2. The continuous development of a numeracy rich environment. This will be implemented though an organised and systematic roll out of our new Target “Maths in Your Eyes” (see below)
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.

**Target 1 To maintain the % of students taking Higher Level Maths at junior Certificate at 45%**

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| **Improvement Targets** |
| 37% of students sat the Higher Level Paper in the 2018 Junior Certificate Maths Examination. 45% will sit higher-level in the 2019 State Exams. |
| **Update on Target** |
| * Sept 2018, Following Maths Department DEIS Planning Meeting, taking into account class assessments, Summer & Christmas Exams, it was decided that the target be increased to 45%. There are currently 47% of students sitting higher level, which would accommodate only a 2% drop.
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**Target 2 Converting Test Scores to Percentages**

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| **Improvement Targets** |
| 100% of Second Years will be able to convert their test results from Fractions to percentages by APRIL 2019, this figure is informed by the increased from 70% to 83% at the end of 2018 school year. Target of 705 to be remain for current First year cohort. |
| **Update on Target** |
| * This target will now focus exclusively on converting test scores to percentages. Prncipal and Deputy Principal tp follow up in classes.
* Previous target also focused on plotting information on a bar chart. The Maths Department & DEIS Numeracy team felt this that this previous Target should be terminated as in was confusing and appeared to try amalgamate ‘interpreting data’ and an ability to convert fractions (test scores) to percentages.
* This First Year cohort will be tracked through 2nd Year 2019 and 3rd Year 2020.
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**Target 3 “Maths In OUR EYES”**

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| **Improvement Targets** |
| a) 100% of Second Years will recognize “Maths in our EYES” – a phrase we hope to use to explain a concerted effort by the Maths Department to display Maths & Numeracy Symbols throughout the school, both in Maths classrooms and outside the Maths classrooms, on corridors, walls, doorways etc by MAY 2019.b) 60% of students will find these graphic displays of Maths around the school helpful in their understanding of Numeracy, by MAY 2019. Last years target to remain. |
| **Update on Target** |
| * Student Council will now be involved in the roll-out and promotion of the Maths in Your Eyes initiative.
* A systematic roll out of visual displays will be led by the Maths / Numeracy Team, starting with a visual representation of ‘Horizontal’ and ‘Vertical’ on the outside of all doors of classrooms where Maths is taught.
* The Maths Noticeboard will be update monthly and students will be directed to it.
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**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 ratified and in widespread use across the school.

• TL21 project – a whole-school Action Research project entitled “Team Teaching”. See TL21 folder or website for further details on this project.

• Dedicated Numeracy noticeboard placed in prominent position in the school and is updated regularly.

• SEN department time and resources

• 3 Maths teachers deployed in every year – Team Teaching focuses on Maths & English.

• This list is not exhaustive.

**Further Actions – 2018-2019.**

• Continuation of the TL21 project – has been named as part of an API post.

• Continued promotion of the presence of the ‘Assessment and Change of Level Policy’ which includes tracking of students’ progress throughout the school on different aspects of ability.

• The continued expansion of the Assessment & Tracking Sheet. Access to same given to Management, SEN, Year Heads and other relevant stakeholders.

• Continued numeracy initiatives by HSCL to run in conjunction with Literacy initiatives.

• Promotion and spot checks of graphs in journals.

• Study skills to be organized for relevant groups

• Continued promotion of Maths via CG, Maths Dept etc.

• This list is not exhaustive.

**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
4. Uptake on Higher Level Maths at Junior Cycle
5. Understanding of changing fractions to percentages
6. Awareness and understanding of Maths / Numeracy Symbols, concepts outside the Maths Classroom.
7. Full list of Actions to be taken in Ramsgrange Community School DEIS Numeracy Plan.

**Board of Management of RCS**

This SIP will be considered by the BOM in November 2018.

An update of targets will be presented to the BOM in May 2019.

**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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**When will it happen?**