

**Ardgillan College**

**Castlelands**

**Balbriggan**

**Co. Dublin**

76129H

School Improvement Plan

**NUMERACY**

Issue Date*: April 2016*

**Main Strengths as identified in SSE Process 2015/16:**

* *A highly qualified and committed teaching staff who are enthusiastic and open to developing new ideas.*
* *A broad balanced curriculum*
* *Positive examination outcomes for our students*
* *Subject areas showing an increase in the uptake of JC Higher Level*
* *Good ICT facilities*
* *Positive Reinforcement – Mol an Óige/Good Discipline/Merits*
* *Excellent collaboration among staff – willingness to be involved in peer observation and share good practice*
* *Staff Planning Groups- SSE, Literacy, Numeracy, AFL, new building, Mol an Óige, and policy review*
* *Collaboration between staff is high.*
* *Good use of AFL across the curriculum*
* *Excellent feedback from WSE/MLL in particular in school self-evaluation.*

*In relation to Numeracy:*

* *A commitment to enhancing numeracy across the curriculum*
* *A focus by subject departments of the topic of numeracy in subject areas – 3 strategies identified by all subject teams.*
* *Effective learning support*
* *A range of strategies already in use to support numeracy at whole school level.*
* ***93%*** *of staff uses the common approach to percentages, decimals and fractions posters.*
* *Opportunities in the classroom for students to develop numeracy skills through common approaches and exam cover sheet.*
* *Percentage of students sitting JC HL Maths slight decrease with 65% of students taking higher level in 2015 compared to 67% in 2014.* ***However this is still well above the national average of 55%.***
* *Percentage of students sitting LC HL Maths in 2015 was* ***31%*** *compared to the national average of* ***27%.***
* *A commitment to increasing the number of As in Higher Level Maths, with an aim of 6% at JC level and 4% at LC level.*

| ***Evaluation Theme*** | ***Improvement Target*** | ***Required Actions*** | ***Persons responsible*** | ***Timeframe for Action*** | ***Success Criteria/Measurable Outcomes*** | ***Review Date*** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Quality of Learner Outcomes*** | * *Uptake of HL JC Maths exam & Results in JC and LC Maths to increase* | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | *All students*  *encouraged*  *to sit HL paper*  *if possible* | *All members of English team.*  *Subject co-ordinator of English to track uptake and compare AG statistics with national statistics.* | *June 2014/15/16* | * *Uptake at HL to have increased to 97% in JC 2014* * *Results to compare favourably with national statistics.* * *7% As in HL 2013 (8% nationally) 8% As our goal for 2014* * *19% Ds in HL 2013 (17% nationally) 25% Ds forecast for 2014 but 97% of our cohort taking HL as opposed to 73% nationally* | *September 2014/15/16* | | * *Maths Department* | *Ongoing* | * *Percentage of students taking HL Maths and results in HL Maths to compare favourably with national averages. 65% of students taking JC higher level in 2015 (55% nationally) compared to 67% in 2014 but 31% of students taking LC higher level in 2015 (27% nationally)* | *September 2016* |
|  | * *Standard Competency Test* * *Standardised tests for all year groups using Irish norms issued for next year.* | * *All second years re-tested and all first year groups have completed test B. (PDST tests)* * *Discuss possibilities of introducing this in the coming school year.* | *C Doherty*  *C Doherty*  *NNM* | *2016/2017*  *2016/17* | * *Students that were assessed either maintained attainment or showed an improvement in all areas of the test.* * *Gain standardised data on all students and to monitor attainment and performance. Compare this data with Irish norms.* | *October 2016*  *October- February 2016* |
|  | * *Continue to prioritise numeracy strategies.* * *Survey students and teachers with regard to numeracy strategies.* | * *Common approach to fractions, decimals and percentages* * *Exam cover sheet* * *Paired maths programme* * *Mock exam booklet equivalent to exam cover sheet* | *Numeracy Group*  *Maths Teachers*  *All staff*  All staff and used in all exams including class tests.  Ty and 1st year students  Ardgillan CC exam booklet has been published. One for JC and LC.  C Doherty | *2016/2017* | * *Administer numeracy questionnaire to students and staff to see how well common approaches to numeracy are being implemented.* * *Increase the number of teachers using the exam cover sheet. We have increased this amount from 84% to 92% of staff.* * *Student surveys to determine if students felt the paired maths programme was a success.* | *2016/2017* |
| ***Quality of Students’ Learning Experiences*** | * *Whole School Numeracy Strategy* | * *Maths week* * *Subject department targets.* * *Posters – common approach to Numeracy* * *Keywords in Maths classrooms* * *Exam Coversheet* * *Numeracy page in the journal.* * *Bridging Programme for 1st year students* * *Paired maths programme for 1st and Ty students.* * *Mock Exam Booklet* | *Maths Teachers*  *Subject*  *co-ordinators*  *All staff* | *2013/14*  *2014/15*  *2015/16* | * *Numeracy skills of students improving.* * *Maths results improving* * *More positive attitude towards Maths* | *Ongoing-*  *Subject departments re-evaluate strategies regularly during the school year. They measure if targets were met and establish new targets or re-visit existing targets.* |
|  | * *AFL and Assessment* | * *Sharing aims of lesson* * *Criteria for Success* * *Comment Only Marking* * *KWL* * *Questioning* * *Traffic lights* * *Lollipops* * *Hot Seat* * *Group Work* * *Continual Assessment* * *Different ways to assess* | *C Dunphy*  *Subject*  *co-ordinators*  *All teachers* | *This will be the main target focus of the SSE in the 2016-17 school year.* | * *Embed AFL into Teaching & Learning so our students are more engaged & successful* * *Improve self-directed learning by students setting targets for themselves through improved teacher feedback.* | *Ongoing* |
|  | * *Common Calculator to be used -* **Casio** Scientific Calculator FX-83ES/ or similar version | * *To be clearly stated on Booklists* * *To be used by all teachers/students* | *All teachers* | *Academic Year 2016/17* | *We aim for 100% of teachers/students using the* ***Casio*** *Scientific Calculator FX-83ES.* | *March 2017* |
|  | * *Transfer from Primary to 2nd Level* | * *Induction Booklet* * *Links with NS* * *SEN* * *Bridging programme in maths class* | *E Jenkinson & 1st Year Tutors*  *MOL/NNM*  *A Mulhern*  *Fiona Gill*  *C Doherty* | *Sept 2016*  *Ongoing* | * *Gain student feedback to ascertain that students feel welcome & confident* * *Good relationships & key information shared.* * *Students’ needs are communicated and catered for. IEPs are drawn up.* | *Ongoing* |
|  | * *Problem Solving for Transition Year students* | * *Continue with Problem Solving as a module in Transition Year* | *C Doherty* | *Ongoing* | * *Uptake in Higher Level Maths at LC and results at LC* | *Ongoing* |
| ***Teachers’ Practice*** | * *Subject*   *co-ordinators* | * *Rotated position but all team members to have defined role* * *Consistency re: Assessment, AFL Peer Observation, Exams etc.* | *Subject*  *co-ordinators* | *2013/14*  *2014/15*  *2015/16* | * *Subject Department Plan in place for all subjects* * *PDST analysis of 2012, 2013, 2014 & 2015 JC results and 2015 LC results available on Shared Folder for all subject teams. Subject teams to set realistic targets for the future and record them in their respective subject department plans.* * *Increase number of teachers setting common exams to 100% in 2015/16. Currently 97% do this.* * *Aim for 100% of teachers to share resources in 2016/17. Currently 98% of departments share resources. (increase of 6% this year)* | *April*  *2017* |
|  | * *Subject Numeracy Plans* | * *Subject teams to pick 3 key strategies to implement at the beginning of each academic*   *Year* | *Subject co-ordinators*  *All teachers* | *August/September 2016* | * *Ensure that all subject teachers aware of key strategies in their subject area and are engaging with them* * *Ensure that students are more engaged in class and so improve upon exam results. (Subject teams to set their own targets)* * *100% of subject teams identified targets in 2014/15. Maintain this 100% in 2016/17* | *August 2016* |
|  | * *School Journal* * *Staff Handbook* | * *Information pages on Literacy & Numeracy* * *Strategies for all education partners* | *A Mulhern*  *C Doherty*  *N Ní Mhurchu*  *All teachers* | *2016/17 Academic Year* | * *Numeracy Strategy supported* | *April 2017* |
|  | * *Exam Cover Sheet* * *Peer Assessment Sheets* * *Comment Only Marking* | * *To give quality feedback to students* * *Students aware of Criteria for Success and what they have to do to improve* * *Allow students to calculate their own percentages on tests and exams.* | *All teachers* | *2016/17* | * *To increase number of teachers noting keywords and giving constructive feedback on exam cover sheet from 92% to 100%.* * *Students receiving quality feedback which directs their future learning* * *Students aware of how they can improve* * *Students taking responsibility for their own learning* | *April 2017* |
|  | * *Peer Observation* | * *Comfortable with others in classroom* * *Collaboration* * *Sharing of best practice* * *Gain new teaching methodologies* * *Filing of Peer Observation Sheets* | *All teachers*  *Subject co-ordinators to keep Peer Observation Sheets in Subject Department Plan.* | *Once a term*  *Ongoing* | * *Improved collaboration and sharing of best practice among teachers.* * *Feedback* * *Increase number of staff involved in Peer Observation from 90% (increase of 13%) to 100% in 2016/17.*   *Increase number of staff opting to do more than the minimum requirement of 3 from 11% (increase of 1%) to 20% in 2016/17.* | *Ongoing* |