

Whole School Evaluation

Time period of School Self Evaluation : 2014 – 2016

Focus of Evaluation : Literacy and Numeracy in 1st 2nd yrs

Information was collected from students and teachers in the form of standardised and class tests, reflective diaries as well as meetings and brainstorming group activities.

Meetings with parents and staff were arranged to disseminate results.

School Strengths

- ▶ Good learning support for disadvantaged students who were identified by the WRAT, CAT and class tests.
- ▶ Specific targets were established to ensure all students had a reading age of 12 which was necessary to access the Junior certificate.
- ▶ Other targets were adapted to raise awareness about the importance of Quality work.
- ▶ Positive initiatives established by working group on Literacy, these included “Key words in the classroom which were subject specific”, “Spelling Bee “, the use of CAPS in promoting student self assessment in written work.

Evidence of School Strengths

- ▶ Greater familiarity among students in comprehending concepts.
- ▶ Students ease of using CAPS in some subject areas.
- ▶ Visible signs about vocabulary used in the corridors to raise awareness of everyday use of words.
- ▶ Greater uptake by students use of the local library.
- ▶ Specific learning support was targeted to student's needs and Individual Student Education plans were developed to deal with disadvantaged students

Priority areas for Development

- ▶ Specific targets related to understanding the use of language for “Life Skills” - appropriate use of key words :
“To, Too, Two -----There, Their, They’re --- “
- ▶ Adapting a reading programme to suit the needs of slow readers as well as a new group reading tests in a learning support environment.
- ▶ Using the “Toe by Toe” programme to work on fluency, pronunciation and speed reading.
- ▶ Adapt books towards language appropriate levels for all.

Other priority areas for Development

- ▶ School mentoring programme in reading to pair TY students with 1st Year students.
- ▶ Develop new initiatives to explain the language of Maths and improve students' overall performance.
- ▶ Prioritise the ability to understand - “Fractions, Decimals and Percentages” A proposed “Cover Sheet” should be prepared for converting one to the other.
- ▶ Get all teachers to focus on simplifying aspects of numeracy in their key subject areas.

Key areas to watch out for

- ▶ Students automatic and independent use of CAPS.
- ▶ Key words that students have difficulty with and put up samples of “Quality work” to illustrate use of these words.
- ▶ New methods of communication between teachers and students such as “Survey, SWOT Analysis, KWL ---- for frequent use in the classroom
- ▶ The last point leads to Assessment for Learning techniques which are now part of School Self Evaluation for 2016 and a report on the success and use of different AFL techniques will be presented to staff in May 2016.