

Saint Mary's CB.S Enniscorthy

Whole School Literacy Policy

"Literacy is the bridge from misery to hope" Kofi Annan

"Failure in reading is the greatest social problem" (Combat Poverty Report)

"To read without reflecting is like eating without digesting" (Edmund Burke)

Introduction

St Mary's CBS is a voluntary secondary school for boys with a catholic ethos. It is under the trusteeship of the Edmond Rice School Trust (ERST). St. Mary's has been providing second-level education for boys in Enniscorthy since 1857 and has a current enrolment of 655.

Mission Statement

As a school community committed to the Edmund Rice Charter 'We care, we prepare, we achieve'

2.1 Definition of Literacy

"Literacy includes the capacity to read, understand and critically appreciate various forms of communication including spoken language, printed text, broadcast media and digital media."
(DES 2011:8)

2.2 Rationale

Literacy underpins the school curriculum by developing students' abilities to speak, listen, read and write for a wide range of purposes. Helping students to express themselves clearly orally and in writing enhances learning in all subjects. All departments and all teachers have a crucial role to play in supporting students' literacy development.

Literacy has the following positive effects for students:

Strengthens access to curriculum

Perform better in school

Enhances life chances

Life long learning

Crucial life skill

Creates confidence and resilience

Imaginative, innovative, and creative people

Active citizenship/ Participate fully in society

2.3 A whole School Approach

Literacy is an essential part of the teaching and learning process in our school. We recognise the importance of literacy in our school community, to life within wider society and to the personal growth of individuals. We are committed to the development of a whole school approach to literacy and recognise the need for a multi-faceted approach. The stakeholders within our St Mary's school community are aware that in order to tackle the growing problem of illiteracy in our country, then a whole school approach is warranted." Improving literacy in our schools is an urgent priority for our education system"(Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life, 2011:14). In order for our Literacy Policy to be effective, it needs to be adopted, promoted and enacted in every subject area and by every teacher.

"effective schools and educational interventions *can* improve learning outcomes substantially for all students (ibid.9)

2.4 The Literacy Core Group

The Literacy Working Group will be responsible for:

Developing and implementing a plan for a whole school approach to literacy development, encompassing teacher development, short-term interventions and a school wide enrichment policy.

Establishing a schedule for literacy development

Putting in place structures to monitor, evaluate and review the literacy development plan in action.

Driving and activating the school literacy plan, focusing on junior school and on developing the whole school aspect.

Aims

To promote whole-school literacy by maintaining a positive ethos, creating a high public profile e.g. creating a print rich environment using the DEAR re[a]d wall, Office 365 and notice boards.

To ensure subject specific literacy is taught thoroughly in all subject areas, including specific vocabulary and to recognise the reading and writing demands of specific subjects.

To develop cross curricular links with literacy that can be supported by all subject teachers. These will include whole school spelling approaches and the of achievement of specific literacy targets

Promote parental involvement in the school's literacy strategy.

Link literacy to the wider community, for example, the local library.

Initiate student to student peer- reading across the school.

Literacy training for staff.

Objectives for 2014/15

Implement and test the 'Mechanics of Writing'

DEAR for Junior Cycle

Re[a]d wall

Paired reading between first and transition year students

Book in a bag(whole school)

Virtual Re[a]d wall using Office 365

Word of the week (subject specific for each year)

Formal links with the local library

The establishment of a school library?

Spelling Competitions?

Literacy Week?

Make a book?

This Policy will be reviewed in May 2015