

## SSE 2017

### Review of Literacy & Numeracy strategy for 2016/2017

#### Team:

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Alison Quinlan – Key Numeracy/Literacy personnel

Whole faculty approach

#### Strategies implemented this year to date:

- 1st years assessed – problem areas identified. Students at risk identified and referred to Learning Support Department
- 2<sup>nd</sup> years re-assessed - results compared to national average and to last year. Problem areas identified - probability
- Previous years' strategies evaluated based on results and team discussion
- Plan for forthcoming year created
- Folder updated
- Primary Schools contacted – 1<sup>st</sup> year results shared
- Surveyed whole school regarding existing strategies employed:
  - Database created of actions currently implemented
  - Recommendations from staff compiled
  - Resources for whole school cross-curriculum assessment gathered
- Regular meetings with team. Management meeting termly concerning decision making and to inform of plan and progress. Whole staff meeting twice annually
- Continued practice of existing strategies (see database)
- Department contacted – school added to contacts regarding any resources available
- Decision made for Heather to undertake CIPD Numeracy online course in the autumn
- Speakers, events and activities researched.
- Colleges contacted regarding potential links with the school/visits in/out
- Progress reviewed – plan amended.

#### Review

##### **Assessment**

Assessment as start of year was successful. It got students and staff thinking of numeracy & literacy early on. Repeat again next year in first week. Have both tests in initial week. Need better support next year regarding marking – perhaps get TY students to assist (& in return this will aid their own numeracy skills)

Perhaps use different assessment on 2<sup>nd</sup> years. The thought was that using the same would lead to better indication of improvement, but it may be possible some students recall the questions from last time. We have another sample test from the Department. Tests will be better copied and boxed before the end of this year in preparation for September.

The results showed improvement in all areas, particularly in the chosen area of units of measurement. However, this topic is clearly not the major problem area. It was good to have selected in the first year of strategy implementation, to test out methods, but focus should now move on to probability – main area our students struggle with.

Next year we intend to incorporate senior cycle too. Assessment has been sourced from Department to initiate in September.

Cross curricula literacy and numeracy assessment to take place in the summer – will be the first whole school initiative. It will serve well as a platform to gain a basis for comparison next year.

### **Primary schools**

Contact with primary schools is hoped to help in future years this can be analysed with next years' incoming 1<sup>st</sup> years. Perhaps in future years we should maintain follow up contact to see how the schools are approaching the problem area. Possibly supply them with ideas/resources.

### **Whole school/staff survey**

Response was poor – staff very reluctant to get involved. Many upset over losing lunchtimes for meetings. Negative attitude seems to be a key factor. Plan needs to be reviewed to make tackling this a priority. Perhaps have a staff development session with the objectives of informing them as to what the true purpose of literacy/numeracy is and its importance for our students and school. Look into getting speakers/instructors in, as it is unlikely this instruction coming from our team will have the required effect. General word/feeling regarding 'literacy and numeracy' from informal chats amongst staff is that it is deemed as extra work which takes them away from their needed teaching time of their own subjects/curriculum.

Despite this, most subjects have at least one member of staff in their department that has adopted a variety of creative/traditional strategies. Compiling the list and distributing these to the staff will have hopefully encouraged others to do the same.

### **Strategies**

Seems to have lulls where we need reminding to use things such as vocab books, notice boards, visual displays. Team feel they are irritating staff by reminding them. Perhaps we could use eportal notices to gently remind in future.

We have been slow to adopt some of the suggestions/recommendations that staff put forward in this last term – we need to ensure these are integrated completely in the next school year.