



ST. AUGUSTINE'S  
**COLLEGE**  
AN AUGUSTINIAN SCHOOL

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DUCKSPOOL ABBEYSIDE DUNGARVAN CO. WATERFORD.  
64890W

# School Improvement Plan for Literacy

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Evaluation period September 2013 to May 2016

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26<sup>th</sup> May 2014

**School Improvement Plan for Literacy September 2013 to May 2016**

## Themes Engagement in Learning and Teaching Approaches

### Summary of main strengths

- STen scores for 1<sup>st</sup> Year students for reading in keeping with the national norms.(results attached)
- Teachers have acknowledged the importance of the development of literacy as an essential part of good teaching practice.
- There is a willingness among all members of our staff to share good teaching practice. Assessment for Learning (Bloom’s Taxonomy Guidelines) integral part of teaching methodologies.
- Group work is acknowledged a key to the improvement of standards of literacy and learning among our student population.
- Weekly class period entitled “Drop everything and Read” working well.

### Summary of main areas prioritized for development.

- Improve learner outcomes in state examinations and increase uptake of subjects at higher level.
- Generate awareness of Blooms Taxonomy of learning domains. ( Cognitive: mental skills (Knowledge) Affective: growth in feelings or emotional areas (Attitude or self) Psychomotor: Manual or physical skills (Skills)
- Literacy test results highlighted the need to focus on the development of literacy skills among our students. (See literacy test results doc. January 2013)
- Encourage teachers to continue to focus on expansion of literacy as well as knowledge skills, set realistic goals and monitor progress.
- A collaborative effort among all members of staff is envisaged to foster a love of reading among our students.
- Increase expectations of standards or oral and written work.
- Increase in self and peer assessment. (group work)
- Develop study and note taking techniques.
- Raise parents’ awareness of the importance of the development of literacy skills in their children.
- Monitor and maintain “Word Wall”

### Actions to support implementation of School Improvement Plan

- Inclusion of comprehensive vocabulary diary on our incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Year book list. Students will be encouraged to record interesting vocabulary, definitions and phrases specific to each subject, thereby expanding word power and flexibility in use of language.

- The diary also contains a section on note taking based on the **Cornell Note Taking Model**, a resource that would encourage students to focus on the more salient elements of the topic being studied.
- Teachers will also be provided with a manual that accompanies the diary.
- Parents too will be advised of our literacy development strategies and encouraged to monitor and encourage the betterment of their child's literacy skills.
- In-house examinations should reflect the goals of our literacy policy.
- Required action relating to teaching and learning that will help to achieve these targets

Improvement Target 1	Required Actions	Person/s Responsible	Measurable Outcomes	Timeframe for action	Review Dates	Evaluation June 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2015	
To improve learner outcomes in state exams and increase uptake of subjects at higher level.	Specific targets and strategies need to be outlined in subject dept. plans.	Teachers	Common In-house examinations set by each subject dept. with established marking schemes. Understanding and awareness of Bloom's Taxonomy	September 13th Word Wall located on school corridor. Vocabulary diary introduced to incoming 1 <sup>st</sup> Year students. (2014)	October 14/15/16	June 2 <sup>nd</sup> State exam student subject levels plotted and graphed for Pre exams.(see literacy file) Comparison will be made with Pre Exams 2016 <a href="#">Pre Leaving 2015 Numbers</a>  <a href="#">Pre Junior Cert 2015 Numbers</a>	
	Generate awareness of Bloom's Taxonomy.	Teachers and students	<a href="#">CAO points 2015</a>  <a href="#">Junior Cert Results 2015</a>	January 2016 Each subject dept monitored Word Wall for one month. Very successful outcome.			Literacy link teacher.
	Focus on questioning techniques in classroom practice. <a href="#">Bloom's Taxonomy in Practice</a>	Teachers					
	Chief examiners' reports suggested touchstone.	Teachers					
			Understanding				

	Key exam terms in student vocabulary diary.	Literacy Core Team	of key examination terms by all students. <hr/> May 10 <sup>th</sup> 2016 Two hour Literacy test -1 <sup>st</sup> Year. Based on Vocabulary dairy. Sample Test <a href="#">Tearmaí don Litearthacht</a> Each subject examined in ten minute test. Results on file			
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Improvement Target 2	Required Action	Person/s Responsible	Success Criteria	Timeframe For Action	Review Date	Evaluation
Increase in self-assessment and number of students who work and learn in paired/group work	Provision of continuous professional development of staff in pair/group work and use of guidelines as self-assessment tool.	Literacy core team and PDST advisor.	Survey to measure success or other of paired working/learning strategy	August 2013 Survey October 2014	October 2015	Literacy survey carried out on January 7 <sup>th</sup> 2015. Survey findings available in literacy file. 68% of our students engage in group work. Recognise the need to improve on this figure.
	All teachers should engage in this teaching strategy					Literacy link teacher need to reinforce the use of this teaching strategy at next staff meeting.

Improvement Target 3	Required Action	Person/s Responsible	Success Criteria	Timeframe For Actions	Review Dates	Evaluation June 2nd
Encourage teachers to continue to focus on expansion of literacy as well as knowledge skills, set realistic goals and monitor progress	A consensus among staff to implement and evaluate progress of scheme by ensuring that students are methodical in editing written work.	All teachers	Teacher observation of writing and comprehension standards to reflect on improvement of standards	September 2013-2015	October 2015	Awaiting results.  Standardised tests can provide useful data for the school's self evaluation process.
			Sample of work of range of students work			

A writing editing checklist will be incorporated in school diary.

assessed by literacy team.  
Propose: To evaluate baseline norm.

2<sup>nd</sup> year students to sit Drumcondra literacy test on Monday, June 25th in order to evaluate success of our literacy Programme on a national level.