

Newpark

Comprehensive School

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Blackrock, Co. Dublin

Roll Number: 81001I

School Improvement Plan Summary

Evaluation Period: Spring 2015 to May 2018

Plan Issue Date: September 2015

Summary School Improvement Plan

1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of the evaluation

As part of our ongoing work in the school we conducted a school self- evaluation of Transition Year and Numeracy. We evaluated aspects of T.Y. and numeracy strengths and weaknesses in first year.

This school improvement plan sets out the actions that we will undertake in the school over the next three years in the areas identified above. The main purpose of these actions is to improve our students' learning.

2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings for this period of time.

2.1 Our school has strengths in the following areas of T.Y.

- The work experience programme was found to be very beneficial in terms of acquiring new skills and boosting students' confidence; students, parents and teachers all agreed on this.
- Students found C.A. to be valuable.
- Outdoor Education week
- The lecture programme
- Breadth of programme and range of subjects.

2.2 Our school has strengths in the following areas of numeracy

- Computation and computation language
- Order of operations
- Decimals
- Patterns/sequence
- Graph interpretation and measure

We know this because we carried out a survey of parents, students and teachers of T.Y. to evaluate a wide range of T.Y. areas. We also surveyed students in first year regarding numeracy.

2.3 Our school has decided to prioritise the following areas in T.Y. for development:

- Increase the number of students who pass T.Y.
- Develop Arts Week and In Dublin Week to improve student satisfaction with these areas.
- Improve communication with parents re the structure of the TY year.
- Foster a reading culture
- Focus on 6 core skills in English.
- Create more cross curricular links (2015/2016)
- Increase the amount of timetabled I.T. for TY. (2016/2017)

2.4 Our school has decided to prioritise the following areas in numeracy:

- Problem solving in first year
- School wide common approach to percentages and graphs
- Improving student perception of all teachers' attitudes to maths.

We have decided to prioritise these areas because our research indicates there's room for improvement in these areas.

2.5 Newpark has set the following targets for improvement which are related to students' achievement and has identified the following actions which will help in reaching those targets over the next 3 years.

Targets for Improvement in TY 2015/16	Action	Success Criteria
Increase the number of students who pass TY by 6.2%	Support students who are having difficulty by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving them access to resource teacher. • Compiling data base of contacts for work exp. • Using the Relationships and Behaviour Policy • Warning of consequences of failing • Emphasise importance of use of journal. 	The number of students who pass increases by 6.2%
Improve communication with parents re the structure of the year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce information booklet for parents • Text messages • App 	70% of parents will report that they understand the structure of the year.
Improve student satisfaction levels with Arts Week and In Dublin week.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build on existing program by introducing some new activities and by using a themed approach to Arts Week. 	Student satisfaction ratings will rise in both areas.
Improved competency with 6 core skills in TY English.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student self-assessment sheets. 	Teacher and students will document improvements.
Foster a reading culture in TY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading Wall • Book in the Bag • Teacher recommendations 	Informal assessment through dialogue with students.
2016/17 Create more cross curricular links in TY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning time 	Cross curricular links across several departments.
2017/18 Increase in timetabled I.T. for all TY students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management to prioritise I.T. on TY timetable. 	Students will show greater competency with IT use.

All TY students will have access to One Drive		
Targets for Improvement in Numeracy	Action	Success Criteria
Improve problem solving in first year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 week block of problem solving classes 	Raise students' ability to solve problems by 10%
Raise the standard of creating graphs among all students and standardise the approach school wide.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of S.A.L.T. on the graph to all staff. • S.A.L.T. poster displayed in all classrooms. • All staff use common approach to graphing. 	Graphing school wide will be standardised and improved.
Improve students' perception of all teachers' attitudes to maths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teachers use S.A.L.T. for graphs and get students to work out test percentages with a common approach. 	There will be an increase of 12% in students' perception that teachers like maths.

As a parent you can help us by

- Checking the student journal regularly.
- Using the school website to access information.
- Accessing the newsletter through the website or on hard copy.
- Talking to your child in years 1-4 about their 'Book in the Bag' and ensuring they have one at all times.
- Talking to your child about their participation in school life.
- Encouraging your child to aim high to the best of their ability.
- Attending parent/teacher meetings.

2.6 We will know we have achieved our improvement targets when the success criteria in the above tables have been met.