

A summary school improvement plan for the board of management to circulate to the school community

**Linn Dara
School**

*Linn Dara School
C/O St. Loman's Hospital
Palmerstown
Dublin 20.
School Roll Number: 196300*

School improvement plan

Evaluation period: September 2013 to June 2016

Plan issue date: *June 2014*

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 teaching and learning this year and we evaluated literacy. For more information on how the evaluation took place, please see our School Self-Evaluation Report which is available from the Principal's office.

This school improvement plan sets out the actions that we will undertake in the school over the next three years in literacy. The main purpose of these actions is to improve our pupils' learning in the areas of reading, writing and communication/oral literacy.

2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

2.1 Our school has **strengths** in the following areas:

Strengths

Dedicated staff
Written lesson plans
Variety of teaching methodology; verbal, text, visual imagery , audio and active learning
Promotion of oral language, emphasis upon expression, communication and reading aloud
Promotion and encouragement of reading a broad array of material, extending beyond the literature from the curriculum
Audio curriculum books
Group discussions on books, plays, film, poetry, subject topics and general topics
Excellent attitude towards reading for pleasure
Written comments on student work
Emphasis upon the writing process
Teaching the conventions of writing, developing the concept of writing as a skill
Focus upon structure in writing
Focus on legibility of hand-writing where possible and the use of laptops for typing
Explicit teaching of a range of genres within literature across the curriculum, expression and writing.
Teaching the concept of the reader/audience relationship
Availability of dictionaries and thesauruses, in both print and digital formats

Availability of online resources for all subject areas

We know this because we consulted with pupils, parents, teachers and our SNA.

2.2 Our school has decided to prioritise the following **areas of development**:

Areas for development

- D.E.A.R. – Drop Everything And Read – to encourage reading for pleasure
- W.O.W. – Word Of the Week – to develop vocabulary
- Keyword journals – to develop subject vocabulary
- Print- rich environment – to present opportunities to read
- Display daily timetable – the visualisation of the daily activities
- Reading programme – to develop the skill of reading
- Reading assessments - to understand the students’ reading level
- Comprehension assessments- to understand the students’ comprehension ability
- Monitoring of written work - written feedback on student work, to refer to strengths and where and how improvements can be made
- Audio books beyond the curriculum – to develop listening skills and to access a broader literacy level
- Increased parental involvement - to seek parents interest and attitudes towards literacy
- Increased student involvement - to seek students interest and attitudes towards literacy

We have decided to prioritise these areas because these are the core areas that will promote, encourage and enhance literacy development in our school.

2.3 Our school has set the following **targets for improvement** which are related to pupils’ achievement and has identified the following **actions** which will help in achieving those targets over the next three years.

Targets for Improvement	Action
D.E.A.R. – Drop Everything And Read	Set dedicated time on weekly timetable
W.O.W. – Word Of the Week	New word of the week every week, written on board, printed and displayed on walls
Keyword journals	Keywords written for each topic in each subject into keyword journals
Print- rich environment	Display current student work and update and renew wall posters and wall displays

Display daily timetable	Provide whiteboard for enlarged written version of the timetable
Reading programme	Develop a suitable reading programme, for example the <i>Star Reading Programme</i>
Evaluation of literacy	Checklist for evaluating students' literacy
Monitoring of written work	Checklist for evaluating students' literacy
Audio books beyond the curriculum	Checklist for evaluating students' written work
	Expand our audio book collection to include current fiction
Parental involvement	Include a school meet and greet when parents are given a tour the unit. It will give the parents an opportunity to meet the teachers and ask any questions with regards to our school Give a questionnaire to parents
Student involvement	Give a questionnaire to students
Reading and comprehension assessments	Introduction of formal and informal reading assessments to measure accuracy, fluency and processing speeds
<p>As a parent you can help us by encouraging your child's interest in reading, writing and expression. Also parental feedback is essential in developing literacy in our young people and we welcome your comments, opinions and thoughts on this very important aspect of your child's development.</p> <p>2.4 We know we will have achieved our targets when all students undertake a reading assessment upon arrival and the above actions are incorporated into our daily lessons and they become part of the fabric of school life.</p>	