

# **School Improvement Plan**

June 2014

Grange Community College

Grange Abbey Road,

Donaghmede,

Dublin 13

Roll No: 70020B

**Grange Community College School Improvement Plan 2014-2015**

**Baseline data**

**Numeracy**

- **The Second years did WRAT testing in May 2014 during the house exams. The target that students underachieving in numeracy at the beginning of 1<sup>st</sup> year will have improved on a standard numeracy test by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> year is set for next year, but we have tested them in order to monitor progress. Of those who underachieved at the entrance test and who presented for testing in May 2014 (6 students), 83% (5 students) have improved their scores, although not necessarily in line with their age. We noted that the Average Mathematical Computational Equivalent age did not increase. The test was on computation whereas the students had been practising using calculators. Probably our measure, calculator proficiency, whilst it will help them in their Junior Cert exam, may not have helped their score in this test.**
- **The target which aims to increase numbers taking Higher level Maths at Junior Certificate from 0% (year 1) to 25% (year 2) has another year to run, but of the current second years approximately eight are attempting the higher level syllabus. At the moment there are two classes catering for the three levels at Junior Certificate level, so those who could attempt higher level are facilitated. The results of the Junior Certificate 2014 will need to be analysed in September.**
- **In an attempt to pave the way for the target of introducing a higher level maths class in 5<sup>th</sup> year (2014-2015), the current TY students were divided into two groups according to ability.**
- **100% of teachers surveyed responded that knowledge of maths was beneficial to all subjects. 77% reported that they promoted a positive attitude to maths.**
- **Only 46% of teachers checked if students understood words that have different meanings in maths and their subject. There also seemed to be perception that there is a lack of consistency in the approach to maths calculations and language across the school.**

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a student survey 69% said that they liked maths. However, only 31% said that they usually checked their answers to make sure they hadn't made a mistake.</li> <li>• DES Maths Inspection Report stated that the 'learning environment was encouraging and supportive.' It also stated that it found 'student attitudes to maths generally positive.'</li> </ul> <p><b>Literacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students reported a high satisfaction level with the DEAR program</li> <li>• Results of WRAT resting indicate that the average reading age of the students in Feb 2012 was 10.3, increased to an average reading age of 13.3 in May 2014, an overall increase of 3 years in 27 months. This represents an increase from an average entrance score of 4.3, which is 4<sup>th</sup> class standard, to 13.3 at the end of second year. (13.3 is equivalent to first year standard)</li> <li>• Although keyword posters are in all classes there were no statistics available to show the efficacy of the measure throughout the school</li> <li>• Two classes have been provided to facilitate students undertaking higher level in English. There were students in the higher class, but the number who will take this level at Junior Cert won't be known until the end of third year.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Summary of main areas requiring improvements</b></p> | <p><b>Numeracy</b></p> <p>Overall target to improve numeracy levels of <u>specific</u> groups of students within the whole school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students underachieving in numeracy at the beginning of 1<sup>st</sup> year will have improved on a standard numeracy test by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> year.</li> <li>• To increase numbers taking Higher level Maths at Junior Certificate from 0% (year 1) to 25% (year 2)</li> <li>• To introduce a higher level maths class in 5<sup>th</sup> year (2014-2015/Year 3)</li> <li>• To increase student awareness of numeracy throughout the curriculum</li> </ul>  |

|   | <p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>Overall target to improve literacy levels of specific groups of students within the junior cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That those in first year with a 4<sup>th</sup> class equivalent reading age will have progressed to a minimum of 1<sup>st</sup> year standard by April/May 2015.</li> <li>• That pupils in first year will have mastered a range of keywords relevant to each subject area.</li> <li>• To foster a school-wide culture of reading in the school.</li> <li>• That the percentage of students taking higher level papers be increased (See subject department folders)</li> </ul> |  |  |                       |
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| Improvement Targets   | Required Actions   | Success Criteria / Measurable Outcomes                       | Persons Responsible                    | Timeframe for Actions |
| Students underachieving in numeracy at the beginning of 1 <sup>st</sup> year will have improved on a standard numeracy test by the end of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year. | Subject departments in collaboration with whole-staff to develop strategies to improve numeracy in own subject area  | Maths test scores improved                                   | All teachers directed by the principal | By April/May          |
| To increase numbers taking Higher level Maths at Junior Certificate from 0% (year 1) to 25% (year 2)  | Provision of two maths teachers for each year group to facilitate the teaching of higher level maths   | Increased up-take of Higher level Maths at Junior Cert level | Management                             | 2013 onwards          |

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| To introduce a higher level maths class in 5 <sup>th</sup> year (2014-2015/Year 3)   | Provision of teacher and resources  | Increased up-take of Higher level Maths at Leaving Cert level                                     | Management   | 2014-2015                  |
| To increase student awareness of numeracy throughout the curriculum  | Awareness heightening of Numeracy in all or most subjects by posters, exercises and participation of students in subject survey   | Improvement on numeracy testing and awareness demonstrated by survey results                      | All teachers directed by the principal                       | By April/May               |
| That those in first year with a 4 <sup>th</sup> class equivalent reading age will have progressed to a minimum of 1 <sup>st</sup> year standard by April/May 2015. | Subject departments in collaboration with whole-staff to implement strategies to improve literacy particularly of identified students in own subject area               | Reading test score improved   | All teachers-directed by the principal                       | By April/May               |
| That pupils in first year will have mastered a range of keywords relevant to each subject area.  | Each teacher will commit to the usage and testing of words in keyword notebooks.  | Subject word-reading test score improved  | All teachers-directed by the principal                       | September-December         |
| To foster a school-wide culture of reading in the school.  | All teachers to encourage reading for pleasure in Drop Everything and Read Initiative   | Improved reading age of weaker pupils and improved attitude towards reading evidenced by students | All teachers-directed by the principal and JCSP co-ordinator | In time set aside for DEAR |
| <b>Monitor and Review</b>  | Targets and actions to be reviewed in full by the principal and staff at the end of the school year 2014-2015 and after Junior Cert results are known, where necessary. |   |  |                            |

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Signed .....

Date.....

Chairperson of Board of Management