

# **School Improvement Plan**

June 2015

Grange Community College

Grange Abbey Road,

Donaghmede,

Dublin 13

Roll No: 70020B

## Grange Community College School Improvement Plan 2015-2016

### Baseline data

#### Attendance

- There is a need for consideration of the attendance of senior cycle students.
- Attendance of Junior Cycle students for the year August 2014 - June 2015 was 87.29%. There is a need to increase the full day attendance of Junior Cycle students.
- Statistics for attendance in 2014-2015 indicate that the problem of the fall-off in afternoon attendance needs to be addressed.
- A study of the School Completion Programme shows that whole-school attendance in September 2014 was 88.84%.

#### Literacy

- The student cohort that had been the focus of the Deis plan finishing in June 2015 was extensively tested for improvement in reading age at the end of the previous school year 2014. As the previous report shows they had made significant gains in this area.
- Testing took place to assess the progress on the target that those in first year (2012) with a 4<sup>th</sup> class equivalent reading age will have progressed to a minimum of 1<sup>st</sup> year standard by the end of third year. The average reading age of the students in Feb 2012 was 10.3, which increased to an average reading age of 13.3, 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 when repeat testing took place.
- To assess the progress on the target that pupils in 1<sup>st</sup> year (2012) will have mastered a range of keywords relevant to each subject area teachers were asked to test students on their knowledge of keywords which have been on display in their classrooms.
- In an endeavour to foster a school-wide culture of reading in the school the Drop Everything And Read programme was carried out for one week. It was felt by teachers that the students were marginally less enthusiastic than the previous year and it was suggested that the activity needs to be varied from year to year.
- The target that aims to increase the percentage of students taking higher level papers at Junior certificate relates to the students who are now in third year. Currently there are two classes in English catering for the three levels at Junior Certificate level, so those who could attempt higher level are facilitated. Teachers will continue to encourage students to perform at the highest possible level.

	<p><b>Numeracy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The newly developed maths competency test will be administered at entrance testing and will be providing specific information for the Project Maths Junior Cert Syllabus.</li> <li>• We continue to hold the target which aims to increase numbers taking Higher level Maths at Junior Certificate from 0% (year 1) to 25% (year 2).</li> <li>• There are two classes for Leaving Certificate Maths this year in order to enable students to take higher level maths.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Summary of main areas requiring improvements</b></p>	<p><b>Attendance</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To increase attendance of senior cycle students by 5 % in the first year of the new Deis plan</li> <li>2. To increase full day attendance of junior cycle students by 1 %</li> </ol> <p><b>Numeracy</b></p> <p>Overall target to improve numeracy levels of <u>specific</u> groups of students within the whole school:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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>2. To increase numbers taking Higher level Maths at Junior Certificate to 45% in three years.</li> <li>3. To continue to provide a higher level maths class for the present 3<sup>rd</sup> years as they enter 5<sup>th</sup> year</li> <li>4. To increase student awareness of numeracy throughout the curriculum</li> </ol> <p><b>Literacy</b></p> <p>Overall target to improve literacy levels of specific groups of students within the junior cycle:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That those students in first year in 2015-16 will have made an average percentile improvement in Reading Ability per annum.</li> <li>2. That the majority of students will have an in-depth understanding of key vocabulary/terminology in all subjects in order to access the junior cycle curriculum.</li> <li>3. To promote interest in reading throughout the school.</li> </ol>

	<b>Improvement Targets</b>	<b>Required Actions</b>	<b>Success Criteria / Measurable Outcomes</b>	<b>Persons Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe for Actions</b>
<b>Attendance</b>	To increase attendance of senior cycle students by 5 % in the first year of the new Deis plan	Change timetable to 3/3/3 in school day Breakfast club Change structure of school week	Attendance monitoring  Names taken in afternoon attendance	Attendance Officer  Principal/Deputy Principal SCP /Canteen staff under direction of principal	By April/may
	To increase full day attendance of junior cycle students by 1 %	All junior students to stay in to lunch Shorter lunch-time	Attendance monitored	Attendance officer and principal	By April/May
<b>Numeracy</b>	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.	Whole-school strategies i.e. percentage conversion of test results and visible numeracy in every classroom  Subject departments in collaboration with whole-staff to develop strategies to improve numeracy in own subject areas	An improvement in Maths test scores	All teachers directed by the principal	By April/May
	To increase numbers taking Higher level Maths at Junior Certificate to 45% in three years.	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 with Maths Department	2015-16 onwards
	To continue to provide a higher level maths class for the present 3 <sup>rd</sup> years as they enter 5 <sup>th</sup> year	Provision of teacher and resource	Increased up-take of Higher level Maths at Leaving Cert level	Management	2015-2016

	<b>Improvement Targets</b>	<b>Required Actions</b>	<b>Success Criteria / Measurable Outcomes</b>	<b>Persons Responsible</b>	<b>Timeframe for Actions</b>
<b>Numeracy</b>	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
<b>Literacy</b>	That those students in first year in 2015-16 will have made an average percentile improvement in Reading Ability per annum.	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 the majority of students will have an in-depth understanding of key vocabulary/terminology in all subjects in order to access the junior cycle curriculum.	Each teacher will commit to the usage and testing of words e.g. in keyword notebooks.	Subject word-reading test score improved	All teachers directed by the principal	September/December
	To promote interest in reading throughout the school.	All teachers to encourage reading for pleasure in Drop Everything and Read Initiative  THRILD – a before reading strategy	Improved reading age of weaker pupils and improved attitude towards reading evidenced by students	All teachers- directed by the principal and JCSP co-coordinator	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 2015-2015 and after Junior Cert results are known, where necessary.				

Signed ..... Chairperson of Board of Management

Date .....