



Coláiste Chiaráin
Leixlip Community School
Celbridge Road
Leixlip
Co. Kildare

School Self-Evaluation Report

Evaluation period: 2014-15

Report issue date: September 2015

School Self-Evaluation Report

Foreword: The students and staff of Coláiste Chiaráin suffered significant emotional upheaval during the school year. Four students died tragically in September, October, February and April. Much of the focus and energy of the staff and Board of Management of the school was directed to the care of its community. Some elements of the School Improvement Plan were not realised.

1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of the evaluation

A school self-evaluation of teaching and learning in Coláiste Chiaráin was undertaken during the period September 2014 to May 2015. During the evaluation, teaching and learning in the following area were evaluated:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Assessment

This is a report on the findings of the evaluation.

1.2 School context

Coláiste Chiaráin was established as Leixlip Community School in 1980 under Deeds of Trust.

- *Trustees: Presentation Order, Archbishop of Dublin and KWETB.*
- *Board operates under provisions of the Education Act and other relevant legislation.*
- *Mixed school, inclusive in intake.*
- *Non Fee Paying*
- *The school serves the community.*
- *Community has good employment rates.*
- *Current enrolment: 695*
- *Projected enrolment 2015-16: 715.*
- *New Deputy Principal August 2010 & 2014*
- *Developed Autism Unit*
- *Culturally diverse*
- *Reduced in-school management structure due to government cutbacks*
- *Reduced teaching allocation due to government cutbacks*

2. The findings

Literacy - Three projects that had been run successfully as pilot schemes for the academic year 2013/14 were developed and implemented on a wider scale to further embed in our culture and promote a wide appreciation of reading and literacy.

The three projects were;

- Building Bridges of Understanding
- Paired Reading
- One Book Project

New projects were also undertaken.

- The stocking, developing and opening of our Library,

- The promotion of a Teacher Reads poster initiative
- A Literacy Noticeboard.

Assessment - The school introduced a pilot scheme of assessment for first years whereby instead of taking semester exams with the rest of the school in November they would have continuous assessment and not experience set exams until February 2015. Their response to this was recorded.

Numeracy - A Numeracy noticeboard was set up and the use of the Maths competency test for incoming first years was to be used to highlight areas of weakness.

This is a report on the findings of those evaluations.

Development of the School Library

Our school Library began lending in May 2015.

There has been a very positive response and engagement in this process from the whole school community. This can be measured in the response to a number of initiatives

- Book Drive - December 2015. Over 2,000 books donated from the community to the library
- Volunteers for the Library committee - over 25 students applied in writing and took part in training
- We began a dual membership system with Leixlip Library and they provided us with cards and membership of their library when students joined the school library. Over 350 students and staff have joined.

Development of a Literacy Notice Board.

A weekly conundrum is put up and students invited to guess the answer. Words of the week are also displayed.

A weekly prize given for correct answers has stimulated interest.

The weekly conundrum has had a steady number of entries.

We would hope to increase that this year and to develop and use for crosswords and other word puzzles.

Numeracy

Numeracy Noticeboard was set up prominently outside the Principal's office - weekly problems and puzzles were displayed.

A steady increase of entries through the school year.

A weekly prize given for correct answers to displays encouraged participation.

Best Practice - Teachers give class tests back as fraction and students work out %

This was agreed on at a staff meeting in February - no data collected.

Anecdotal evidence suggests practice is widespread.

Maths Competency test given to first years in September 2014 to highlight areas of weakness.

The areas identified were:

- Problem Solving; 27% success on section, compared for example to 88% success on decimals.

- Probability ; 21% success

3. Progress made on previously-identified improvement targets

Target 1; Students learn Key Words for all subjects.

General Keyword assessment is part of subject department's assessment policies.

Keywords assessed by individual departments - a number of departments included this as a section in their summer exams but this needs to be surveyed and recorded next year.

Cross-curricular approach needs to be developed - no action taken.

Literacy Guidelines and display boards complete

Target 2; improve attitude of students to reading for enjoyment

All actions taken

1 survey in January 2015 illustrated engagement with 1 book project and enjoyment [first year only] also student engagement with library illustrates improved attitude [wider student body].

Target 3; Increase awareness in teachers of numeracy moments in teaching and learning.

$\frac{4}{5}$ actions taken

Paired numeracy programme being developed.

Target 4; Increased use of group and paired work in class.

Both actions taken.

No surveys completed.

Target 5; Co-ordinate a whole staff approach to SSE

Teaching and Learning committee established - 3 meetings held

Sub-committees organised and projects completed [more specific agenda and targets needed for next year]

Subject Planning; school intranet developed with planning tools

Staff meetings - changes to structure - focus on discussion on teaching and learning.

4. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

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

- A caring and professional staff committed to promoting Literacy & Numeracy
- Student interest in self improvement
- Strong student interest in reading for leisure
- A new, well stocked Library
- A print rich environment
- Excellent support from the learning support department
- Excellent ICT facilities
- Strong link with local library
- A caring whole school community

4.2 The following areas **are prioritised for improvement:**

- Further identification of numeracy moments in all subjects. Develop paired numeracy strategy

- Development of school intranet to support collaboration between teachers and subject departments
- Include 'Teaching & Learning' element to staff meetings
- Focus on Key Skill – Managing Information & Thinking
- Develop assessment strategies

4.3 The following legislative and regulatory requirements need to be addressed. Develop Data Protection Policy by March 2015. This development did not take place. It will be addressed in the SIP for 2015-16