



# **Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College**

## **Doughiska, Galway City.**

76096S

### **School Self- Evaluation Summary Report for the School Community**

Focus on Literacy

Evaluation Period: September 2013 to June 2014

Report Issue Date: June, 2014.

# Summary School Improvement Plan

## 1. Introduction

Coláiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College was established in August 2013 under the patronage of Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRETB). Colaiste Mhuirlinne/ Merlin College is a co-educational school with a current enrolment of 72 students and a teaching staff including the Principal of 15. It is expected that numbers will rise steadily over the next couple of years with 100 approx. expected for 2014/15. The school at full capacity should have approximately 650- 700 students

### 1.1 The focus of the evaluation

The school staff undertook a school self- evaluation of teaching and learning during the school year 2013/14. The primary focus was literacy but we also looked as a new school on establishing and drafting policies on Bullying, RSE, Special Needs along with setting up committees for the future development of the school.

## 2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

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

### Strengths

- There is willingness among staff to share good practice (resources, methodologies etc.). Teachers willing to engage in literacy development.
- Teacher's use of key words has increased.
- Communication between teaching staff and subject departments is excellent.
- Teacher inclusiveness is evident with everyone contributing to school improvement.
- Change in perception that literacy is not just promoted in English class.
- Wide range of data collection methods used.
- While our students abilities with language, literacy and reading is wide ranging with many students struggling at a very basic level whilst others are above average and are very engaged with reading and writing, teachers in all subject areas are committed to improving the literacy levels of their students.

We know this because we consulted with students, teachers and parents and examined data generated from surveys interviews and

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

### Areas for development

- Literacy Week will become part of the school calendar in 2014/15.
- Starting in September DEAR will become a school wide initiative.
- A book collection via students, parents and teachers will begin in 2014/15 to begin stocking our empty Library.
- A reading 'chill out' area to be established probably in the school library.
- Whole school Short Story Competitions to commence. Thematic; Halloween, Christmas etc.
- Teachers to use and bring in magazines for classes and resource.

- Students to be brought to the City Library.
- Key Word Journals to be bought for all students and to be used in all subjects.
- To encourage school and National based writing competitions.
- Resource teachers to team teach in mainstream classes so as to help and assist weaker students.
- Improve collaboration between students and build on cooperative teaching methodologies like pair and group work.
- Improve student daily attendance
- Devise a recommended reading list for teenagers and distribute to students.
- Advertise a book drive.
- Using all communication methods to communicate the literacy message across the school.
- Literacy Committee to be formally established and to meet regularly throughout the year to help drive the above strategies.
- During Supervision classes - 20 minutes silent reading at the start.
- A plan of action for 2014/15

We have decided to prioritise the above areas because the data analysis showed evidence that initiatives undertaken throughout the year were successful and should be continued. The data also showed areas for improvement and these improvements will assist with the school wide implementation of literacy.

**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.

<b>Targets for Improvement</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. To increase students reading for pleasure.</b></p> <p><i>Sub Target:</i> To increase the percentage of students surveyed reading for enjoyment for 2-5 hours per week from 30% to 40 % and decrease the 0-1 hour's category from 65 % to 50 % over a 3 year period.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of DEAR Initiative</li> <li>• Organise material for DEAR</li> <li>• Create DEAR Timetable for students and teachers</li> <li>• Organisation of Literacy week.</li> <li>• Implement 20 minutes reading for pleasure at the start of supervision classes.</li> <li>• Create a "Reading Corner" once per week at lunchtime until Library in functioning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. To develop a Literacy Rich Environment</b></p> <p><i>Sub Target:</i> With new school building opened for 1<sup>st</sup> full year in September 2014 increase to 100% the evidence of a numeracy rich environment by June 2016 to support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student involvement in designing classroom materials and supporting their own learning.</li> <li>• Provide teachers with sufficient materials to support creating a literacy rich environment.</li> <li>• Collect data each year from classrooms to identify the percentage of rooms with literacy materials.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. To improve learner outcomes in classroom activities, in-house exams and literacy for basic life style</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement new keyword booklets to Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year 2014/2015 and</li> </ul>

## requirements

### ***Sub Targets***

Increase to 70% the percentage of teachers always using key words in class over a 3 year period.

Reduce by 5% each year the amount of students who miss more than 20 days.

2015/2016.

- Teachers surveyed September 2014 and December 2015 to ascertain level of use of key words in classes.
- Teacher reminders of learning outcomes/homework and keywords on the board so that key words become a class routine.
- Review attendance. Year Head monitoring of attendance. Early communication with home.

As a parent you can help us by:

- Encouraging your child to read for pleasure.
- Complete surveys when requested.
- Ensure your child attends school each day.
- Check and sign your child's journal each Friday.
- Speak positively about reading.
- Ensure your child completes homework each night to the best of their ability.

**2.4** We know we will have achieved our targets when:

- Data reflects that we are achieving our smart targets.
- We reach our desired levels of student's reading for pleasure.
- We see an increase the number of students who are most comfortable sharing their ideas and working in pairs/small groups.