**Laurel Hill Secondary School**

**Literacy and Numeracy Policy**

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**Introduction :**

The Literacy and Numeracy Policy requires a whole school approach involving students at both Junior and Senior cycles.

**Relationship to Mission Statement :**

Literacy and Numeracy are the cornerstones of all learning. In accordance with the school mission statement, all students will be given the opportunity to reach their full potential and gain at lease a minimum acceptable standard in literacy and numeracy. This is critical in overcoming educational disadvantage.

**Rationale :**

Literacy and Numeracy gives the student control over her own learning in personal, social and cultural domains. The development of literacy and numeracy to the highest possible standards aims at preparing students to participate in state exams, proceed to third level education and to be competent in the world of work.

**Goals:**

* To educate students towards having a sense of responsibility for their own learning.
* To promote the classroom as a place where productive work is done in an atmosphere of co-operation and respect.
* To develop language skills from the basic literacy of reading and writing to the critical literacy required for analysing and interpreting texts.
* To develop numeracy thereby facilitating the student’s access to further learning and functioning in the world of work.

**Content : How do you hope to achieve these goals?**

* Concurrent timetabling for English and Maths from 2nd Year. This involves the timetabling of English and Maths lessons at the same time for all classes in a year group. As a consequence, not only is the movement of students between levels catered for but this also creates opportunities for inter-class, whole year activities and for team teaching.
* Division into ordinary and higher levels will not be done until second year. This strategy allows students, who are going through an important phase of development, the time to reflect and mature while also encouraging them to have the highest realistic expectations.
* The English and Maths subject plans will be structured and easy to follow. This is of crucial importance for students with any learning difficulties in the area of numeracy and literacy.
* Withdrawal for learning support in English and Maths as per department allocation.
* Additional learning support classes for core subjects.
* After-school supervised study.
* Identification of students with particular difficulties in literacy and numeracy

via standardised tests, in-house assessment, NEPS and special accommodations.

* Setting achievable goals in subjects pertaining to literacy and numeracy.
* All year groups, excluding T.Y., have 5 classes of Maths weekly.
* Where timetable permits, same teacher is allocated to 2nd & 3rd year and 5th & 6th year to ensure continuity.
* Collaborative planning among teachers which provides opportunities for innovative teaching.
* Ensure that Literacy and Numeracy is a key topic of discussion and evaluation at SEN Meetings.
* Continuous Professional Development.

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* **Literacy Initiatives:**
1. Shared and Paired Reading Programme.
2. D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read.)
3. Frequent visits to the library for first years.
4. Senior Cycle active learning in the form of attending plays and poetry recitals

relevant to the curriculum.

1. Differentiation of lessons.
2. Readathon.
3. Spellfactor.
4. Top Button.
5. Action Learning Network – grammar and punctuation project.
6. Learning School Project – focus on non-keyword vocabulary cross-curricular→Wordwall.
7. Juvenes Translatores – translating texts from English to Irish, Irish to English,

French to English and Polish to English.

1. Regular literacy and numerous screening of students attending learning support/resource classes.
2. Reading Wall.
* **Numeracy Initiatives:**
1. Mathematics Olympiad Competition, i.e. Maths Trail, Quizzes, Puzzles.
2. “Maths Week” to promote a positive attitude towards Maths.
3. Smaller class groups.
4. Maths quizzes. (for 1st & 2nd year)
5. Peer Mentoring.
6. Use of Maths Software – “Geogebra” in Senior Cycle. Maths Websites in Junior Cycle.

[www.coolmath-games.com](http://www.coolmath-games.com) [www.mathplayground.com](http://www.mathplayground.com)

1. Learning School Project.

Cross-Curricular Teaching Strategy for Numeracy Awareness and to foster positive

attitude to Numeracy.

1. Weekly Maths Puzzle for all Years.

**The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and**

**Young People 2011-2020.**

The Department of Education and Skills has recently prioritised ‘The National and Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young People 2011-2020’. As highlighted above, Laurel

Hill Secondary School has always put literacy and numeracy as one of our main targets for success in Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations and has always encouraged parental support in achieving this success.

This national strategy sets out a list of targets and actions to be undertaken between now and 2020 in areas such as teacher training and continuous professional development, teaching and assessment and the work of school management.

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**The following are measures that are to be introduced in the near future:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| All schools must co-operate with national and international surveys commissioned or approved by DES. | From 2012 |
| Teachers will be provided with continuous professional development in Literacy, Numeracy and Assessment. | From 2012 |
| Schools must engage in self-evaluation and put in place a three year plan of improvement which includes specific targets for the promotion and improvement of literacy and numeracy. | From 2012-13 |
| Project Maths is to continue and the effects of its implementation on standards will be monitored. | Roll out completed in 2013 |
| All teacher training courses will include mandatory modules in assessment for learning and numeracy and literacy monitoring. | 2013 |
| The time in schools available to students for the development of numeracy and literacy skills is to be increased. | 2013 |
| The revision of the Junior Cycle English and Irish Syllabuses will be prioritised to ensure that attention is given to a range of literacy skills and to strengthen the teaching and assessment of literacy. | From 2014 |
| Postgraduate training courses will increase in length to two years and will provide time to develop student teacher skills in teaching and assessment to improve literacy and numeracy. | 2014-2015 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| All post primary schools will be required to administer standardised tests of reading and maths to all eligible students at the end of second year. All schools must report to parents in clear terms about the progress of their children. | 2014-2015 |
| Principals must report on aggregated data form standardised tests to the Board of Management. | 2015 |
| A limit will be placed on the number of subjects a student may take as examination subjects at Junior Certificate. | 2017 |

In line with this national strategy, Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ is introducing a number of initiatives that will be reviewed and developed up to 2020 as directed by the Department of Education and Skills measures outlined above.

**Roles and Responsibilities relating to Literacy and Numeracy Education at**

**Laurel Hill Secondary School FCJ:**

**Teams consisting of** : Senior Management

 Guidance Counsellor

 LS/RT

 Literacy and Numeracy Team

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**Success Criteria** :

* Ongoing assessment to include class tests and standardised tests.
* House exams.
* Junior Certificate results.
* Leaving Certificate Results.

**Monitoring Implementation:**

* Board of Management.
* Senior Management.
* Suitably qualified teachers i.e. Maths, English, LS/RT.

**Review and Evaluation :**

The progress of Literacy and Numeracy Education will be reviewed by :

* The Principal / Deputy Principal.
* Board of Mangement.
* Staff.
* Team Meetings.
* Achievements in State Exams.
* Review of IEP targets.
* Standardised testing.
* House Exams.

**Reviewed on : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ To be reviewed on : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

 **Chairperson, Board of Management**