

ST MARY'S NATIONAL SCHOOL,
BISHOPSCOURT, BALLYGUNNER, WATERFORD
ROLL NUMBER 17351A

School Improvement Plan

Evaluation period: *School Year 2013/14*

Plan issue date: *October 2014*

Summary school improvement plan

1. Introduction

1.1 The focus of the evaluation

As part of our ongoing work in the school, we conducted a school self-evaluation of teaching and learning this year. We evaluated Literacy. For more information on how the evaluation took place, please see our School Self-Evaluation Report which is available on our school website www.ballygunner.ie

This school improvement plan sets out the actions that we will undertake in the school over the next three years in Literacy. The main purpose of these actions is to improve our pupils' learning.

2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

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

Strengths

- Writing genres has a structured working plan
- We can complete a plan at a whole school level
- We began the process of self-evaluation
- Tracker children are identified and their work is filed

We know this because we consulted with pupils and teachers.

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

Areas for development

- In order to assess meaningfully it is desirable to use Drumcondra Writing Profiles across all of the classes. By its nature writing is more difficult to assess than reading or spelling
- We need to give a questionnaire to an older class and question them in relation to attitudes, learning, interest levels and self-esteem at writing
- In order to have a comprehensive self-assessment we also need to give a questionnaire to parents and send home pupil's work

We have decided to prioritise these areas because

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.

Targets for Improvement

- That all pupils in our school will cover the writing genres of persuasive writing, procedural writing, explanation writing and letter writing.
- That pupils will write 7 to 10 passages in each genre
- That teachers will use the Drumcondra Writing Profiles assessments criteria for

Action

- September: Persuasive Writing
- January: Procedural Writing
- March: Explanation Writing
- May: Letter Writing
- All pupils and class teachers
- All class teachers, coordinated by Deputy Principal

improvement

That three children per class are identified as tracker children All class teachers

That agreed writing conventions in grammar be used and encourage during the writing. All class teachers

As a parent you can help us by completed a questionnaire

2.4 We know we will have achieved our targets when:

- All classes participate
- Plans and timeframe are adhered to
- Tracker children's work is filed
- That we measure improvements in the overall review