

**ST. COLMCILLE'S N.S.**



St. Colmcille's N.S.  
Ballinahown, Athlone, Co. Westmeath.  
Roll No: 19632S

# Summary School Improvement Plan

Evaluation period: September 2013 – June 2016

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# Summary school improvement plan

## 1. Introduction

### 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 Blog [www.ballinahownns.scoilnet.ie/blog](http://www.ballinahownns.scoilnet.ie/blog)

This school improvement plan sets out the actions that we will undertake in the school over the next three years in 2013 - 2016. 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attainment levels in literacy are above the national norms</li><li>• A print rich environment is evident around the school.</li><li>• Pupils read a variety of print text.</li><li>• Pupils display a good grasp of grammar, write in a variety of genres &amp; have neat legible hand-writing.</li><li>• Pupils use their literacy skills competently in their learning of all curriculum areas.</li><li>• Pupils read a variety of print text.</li><li>• Teachers employ a variety of teaching approaches &amp; methodologies.</li><li>• Pupils display positive attitudes towards all aspects of literacy.</li></ul>

We know these are our strengths because we analysed our Standardised Tests results, completed & analysed Literacy checklists & Staff discussed all findings during Croke Park hours.

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

Areas for development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comprehension skills are weak for some pupils.</li><li>• Pupils are not adequately exposed to Digital media.</li><li>• Availability of a variety of reading material can be a problem.</li><li>• Opportunities to write poetry would be provided.</li><li>• An agreed approach to Spelling could be formulated.</li><li>• An agreed school approach of assessment tools for assessing writing.</li></ul>

We have decided to prioritise these areas because we feel addressing these areas will lead to improved learning outcomes for our pupils.

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	Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pupils will be able to use specific comprehension strategies when reading texts.</li> <li>• Pupils will have increased opportunities to use Digital Media in all areas of the curriculum.</li> <li>• Pupils will have access to a wide variety of reading material through Class Libraries, Newspapers &amp; Digital Media.</li> <li>• Pupils will engage in Poetry writing activities &amp; in compiling Poetry Anthologies.</li> <li>• Pupils will be exposed to a spiral approach to Spelling strategies &amp; activities.</li> <li>• By 6<sup>th</sup> class most pupils will have achieved all levels of a Staff designed writing rubric.</li> </ul>	<p>Year 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific comprehension strategies will be taught using 'Building Bridges of Understanding'</li> <li>• Pupils will experience e-learning activities regularly &amp; will use ICT to collaborate on curriculum activities.</li> <li>• ICT equipment will be audited &amp; existing equipment will be upgraded to reflect the needs of the pupils &amp; the experiences which we need to provide to the pupils.</li> <li>• Teacher's cuntais mhíosúla will reflect comprehension strategies used.</li> <li>• Teacher's cuntais mhíosúla will reflect ICT activities pupils will engage in.</li> <li>• CPD needs will be identified in the area of comprehension strategies &amp; in delivering 'Building Bridges of Understanding'</li> </ul> <p>Year 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading materials will be audited &amp; each class will have a library with a variety of reading material.</li> <li>• Teachers will choose &amp; implement the teaching of specific Poems agreed at whole school level &amp; engage the pupils in writing a wide variety of Poetry e.g. 'Haiku', 'Cinquain' etc.</li> <li>• Pupils will compile their own anthology of poetry - provisionally considering "We are Writers" published by Scholastic.</li> <li>• CPD needs will be identified &amp; resourced e.g. writing Poetry</li> </ul> <p>Year 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPD needs will be identified &amp; resourced e.g. the design of writing rubrics</li> <li>• Staff will engage in designing a writing rubric which will assess pupil's achievements in writing.</li> <li>• Staff will review the use of assessment approaches e.g. writing rubric, writing portfolio etc.</li> </ul>

As a parent you can help us by

- supporting your child with Homework,
- talking with your child & re-enforcing work already done in the classroom e.g. practising comprehension strategies / using ICT in their learning,
- Helping us upgrade our ICT equipment

2.4 We know we will have achieved our targets when - (Year 1 Actions)

- Pupils will be able to identify specific comprehension strategies & use them when reading texts.
- Pupils will use ICT regularly in all curricular areas.
- ICT equipment will be upgraded.
- Teacher's cuntais mhíosúla will reference targets in school improvement plan
- Teachers will avail of CPD in 'Building Bridges of Understanding' & comprehension strategies.