

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



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

# Summary

## School Improvement Plan

Evaluation period: September 2014 – June 2015

# 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 Numeracy. 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 2015 - 2018. The main purpose of these actions is to improve our pupils' learning.

### 2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

Our school has strengths in the following areas:

Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Standardized test results are above national norms according to results from June 2014.</li><li>Pupils have a very positive attitude towards Mathematics in our school.</li><li>Good use of concrete materials during mathematics lessons in all classrooms.</li><li>Good knowledge of tables and number facts amongst all pupils.</li><li>Good supply of Mathematics equipment and resources.</li><li>All classrooms have access to iPads to enhance learning through ICT.</li><li>Good use of display areas in Mathematics to enhance pupils understanding and learning.</li><li>Good emphasis is placed on oral Mathematics and on the subject specific language of Mathematics.</li></ul>

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

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

Areas for development

- The amount of time given to discussion on solving Mathematical problems will be increased.
- Mathematics vocabulary will be explicitly taught and its importance emphasized by the use of the Mathematics display area where all vocabulary associated with a particular topic will be displayed.
- Teach Specific Problem Solving strategies eg 'Rose' (Junior Classes) & Rucsac (Senior Classes)
- Increase the use of group work/ pair work to enhance learning in our classrooms.
- Increase the use of concrete materials to solve mathematical problems.
- More discrete time will be given to Math's games, projects and Math's trails.
- Increase the use of ICT during mathematics lessons.

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

### Year 1

- Specific Problem Solving strategies will be taught eg 'Rose' (Junior Classes) & Rucsac (Senior Classes)
- There will be a focus on the development of Maths Language
- Pupils will experience e-learning activities regularly & will use ICT to collaborate on Problem Solving activities.
- ICT equipment will be audited & existing equipment will be upgraded to reflect the needs of the pupils & the experiences which we need to provide to the pupils.
- Audit Maths Equipment & where necessary supplement / supply concrete equipment
- Provide pupils with plenty of concrete materials to enable them to engage effectively with solving mathematical problems
- Teachers will rely less on Maths Books & more on the use of concrete, talk & discussion, games, maths trails, etc methodologies
- Increase pupil participation in projects, games, puzzles & math trails.
- Teacher's cuntais mhíosúla will reflect Problem Solving strategies used.
- Teacher's cuntais mhíosúla will reflect ICT activities pupils will engage in.
- CPD needs will be identified in the area of Problem Solving & Staff will attend courses offered by Athlone Education Centre.

### Year 2

- Continue to teach Specific Problem Solving strategies – Rose / Rucsac
- Continue with the development of Maths Language
- Continue with the use of concrete, talk & discussion, games, maths trails, etc methodologies
- Continue with the upgrade of ICT Equipment
- Continue to supply & supplement concrete mathematical equipment

### Year 3

- Monitor Problem Solving Statistics in Standardised Tests & the effectiveness of Problem Solving strategies
- Monitor pupil's Maths language
- Monitor pupil ability to verbalise a strategy for solving mathematical problems
- Pupils will exhibit an enjoyment of Maths & an interest & enthusiasm in Problem Solving

#### 2.4 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 problem solving strategies / using ICT in their learning,
- Becoming aware of & pointing out Maths in your child's environment
- Discussing Maths & Problem solving with your child.

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

- Pupils will be able to identify specific problem solving strategies & use them when solving problems.
- Pupils will use ICT regularly in Maths.
- Teacher's cuntais mhíosúla will reference targets in school improvement plan
- Teachers will avail of CPD in the area of Problem Solving provided by local Education Centre.
- Improvements will be reflected in Standardised Test results