



School Improvement Plan

Literacy

Gaelcholáiste Reachrann

2014

Content

- 1. Summary of Main Strengths of the school as identified in School Self Evaluation Report 25th April, 2013.**
- 2. Summary of Main Areas requiring Improvement as identified in School Self Evaluation Report 25th April, 2013.**
- 3. Improvement Plan**

Note: This School Improvement Plan was written, accepted and ratified between January and June 2013. As a result of certain conditions we were unable to completely enact this plan during the school year. After discussion and reflection we have made the following decision:

The staff of Gaelcholáiste Reachrann recognises that the main strengths and the main areas requiring improvement are as they were in 2013.

We will implement the following strategies with second year students 2014/2015.

1. The following are the main strengths identified in the School Self Evaluation Report 25th April, 2013:

1. Good Internet Technology Resources Available

- IT resources available in the school and available to students
- Teachers highly skilled in the use of IT (Promethean, Microsoft Office, Music)

2. A High Standard of Teaching and Learning

- Agreement among teachers and pupils regarding the most effective method for learning terminology
- 67% of teachers reflect on the teaching methods used when teaching terminology.

3. Good Results in State Examinations

- Junior Certificate
Between 2010 and 2012, 97%, 98% and 100% of students respectively, did higher level Gaeilge for the Junior Certificate. The national average for the same period was 48.6%. (Chief Examiners Report 2012)

Percentage of students taking various levels in Gaelcholáiste Reachrann at Junior Certificate

2012		2011		2010	
J.C.		J.C.		J.C.	
H.L.	98%	H.L.	100%	H.L.	97%
O.L.	2%	O.L.	0%	O.L.	3%
Honours	100%	Honours	100%	Honours	100%
Pass					
Fail					

During this period 100%, 100% and 96% respectively achieved honours (Grade A, B or C)

Junior Certificate Results 2010 - 2012

	Subject	Level	Year	Total	A	B	C	D
GCR	Gaeilge	H	2010	34	32%	56%	12%	0%
GCR	Gaeilge	H	2011	62	18%	72%	10%	0%
GCR	Gaeilge	H	2012	50	46%	48%	4%	2%

- Leaving Certificate

In 2011 and 2012 100% of students did Higher level Gaeilge in the Leaving Certificate in Gaelcholáiste Reachrann (GCR). In 2010 96% of students did Higher level Gaeilge in GCR. In 2012, 2011 and 2010, 37%, 32% and 32% of students, nationally, took higher level Gaeilge. (Chief Examiners Report (2012))

During this period 100%, 94% and 96% respectively achieved honours.

Percentage of Students taking various levels in Gaelcholáiste Reachrann at Leaving Certificate.

2012		2011		2010	
L.C.		L.C.		L.C.	
H.L.	100%	H.L.	100%	H.L.	96%
O.L.	0%	O.L.	0%	O.L.	4%
Honours	100%	Honours	94%	Honours	96%
Pass		Pass	6%	Pass	One student
Fail					One student

Leaving Certificate Results 2010-2012

	Subject	Level	Year	Total	A	B	C	D
GCR	Gaeilge	H	2010	43	20%	60%	16%	4%
GCR	Gaeilge	H	2011	34	15%	36%	43%	6%
GCR	Gaeilge	H	2012	41	59%	41%	0%	0%

Incoming Students of good academic ability

- CATs (Cognitive Ability Tests)

According to Verbal Reasoning results obtained from CAT tests undertaken by incoming first year students in February 2012, 69% of students scored in the 50th percentile or more and 48% of these scored in the 60th percentile or more.

Scoring in the 60th percentile means that 48% of these incoming students scored better than 59% of students in all of Ireland of the same age and scored worse than 39% of students in all of Ireland of the same age.

CAT Results

In coming 1st Years 2012/2013.

Verbal Reasoning

% of total (Total =73 students)	Percentile ranking
7	90-100
8	80-90
17	70-80
16	60-70
21	50-60
6	40-50
9	30-40
15	20-30
1	10-20

2. **The following is a summary of the priority areas for improvement identified in the School Self Evaluation Report on the 25th April, 2013.**

1. Complete immersion of Students in Irish language school environment

- “66% of teachers explain new terminology through English from time to time” (Survey). Teachers have agreed not to explain new terminology through English but rather to explain it through Irish at all times.

2. Identification, visualisation and retention by students of common terms used in each subject area

- “80% of students indicated that posters help them to learn new terminology. However only 25% of teachers indicated that they have posters in their classroom which display new terminology”. (Survey). Consequently each subject department (Gaeilge, Mathematics, Science, Business, Home Economics, History, Music, Geography, SPHE, CSPE, Modern languages, Art, Technical Graphics, Physical Education, and Religion) will identify ten terms within their subject area and make posters displaying these terms. The posters will be hung in September. One class of second year students and one class of fifth year students will then be tested on these terms in September and again in March.

3. Broadening and improving students vocabulary and language acquisition

- A ‘word of the week’ will be chosen, communicated to students, displayed in prominent positions and special emphasis will be placed on this ‘word’ during the week.

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Evaluation Theme	Improvement Target	Required Actions	Persons Responsible	Timeframe for Action	Criteria for success/ Measurable Outcomes	Review Date
Learner Outcomes	Enrichment of students terminology in each subject area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of the Week • Posters to be designed displaying pertinent words • Terms will be explained through Irish 	Head of Department All teachers	September 2014 – May 2015	Students to be tested in September and again in March in terminology. 10% increase in results expected.	March 2015
	Higher grades in Junior Cert. (95% achieving A or B) and Leaving Cert. examination (Higher % achieving A1. Higher % (70%+) achieving Grade A & B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of the week • Posters to be designed displaying pertinent words • Terms/vocabulary will be explained entirely through Irish • Teachers conscious and active in improving their own and students standard of Irish • Courses during the summer. Courses run by the Department of Education and Skills/ Gaelchultúr etc. Copies of application forms available to all staff. • Cooperation between teachers. • Courses with the school's Irish teachers • An Irish mentor for new teachers • Suitable list of terminology • Irish teachers working with other teachers in small groups. 	Head of Department All Teachers	September 2014 – May 2015	Increase in number of students achieving higher Grades in Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations	

Evaluation Theme	Improvement Target	Required Actions	Persons Responsible	Timeframe for Action	Criteria for Success/ Measurable Outcomes	Review Date(s)
Learning Environment	To develop and sustain an Irish language environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Speakers • Comórtas na Gaeilge • Self-improvement culture within student body and teachers • Good example set by teachers • Dictionary in every classroom • Use of focail.ie • ‘YouTube’ Video Clips– Drama / Grammar. • Competition for Gaelcholáistí. • Connection with Raidió Rí-Rá 	All teachers	September 2014 - May 2015	Improvement of standard and accuracy of Irish. Teachers will be surveyed after summer exams.	May 2015
Learning Environment	Effective implementation of ‘Irish’ Literacy strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of the Week • Posters to be designed displaying pertinent words • “Traffic Lights ” – Comprehension strategy • Word Game “Taboo” • Dictionary in every classroom • Use of focail.ie • COLLINS Dictionary App • Gaelspell • ‘Spelling B’ 				
Learning Environment	Assessment for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing aims of lesson with students • Criteria for success • Effective questioning • Feedback with reference to criteria • Peer Learning 	All teachers	September 2014 - May 2015	Improved learning environment for students to be ascertained by surveying students and teachers.	May 2015

Preparation for teaching/ Teachers' Practice	Language Development and Immersion Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That each teacher would undertake to improve their standard of Irish and understand the importance of doing so • That teachers would discuss and agree common terminology with colleagues • That teachers would engage in informal peer learning. Discussions regarding terminology • Each department to establish a 'Terminology Committee' • Financing Irish courses for teachers • Advertisement of courses. • Haddington Rd. hours 	All teachers Head of each department	September 2014 - May 2015	An improvement in the teachers standard of Irish to be ascertained by surveying teachers	May 2015
	Assessment for Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing aims of lesson • Criteria for success • Effective questioning • Feedback with reference to criteria • Peer learning 	All teachers	September 2014 - May 2015	Improved learning environment for students to be ascertained by surveying students and teachers	May 2015
	Smooth transfer of students from Primary school	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on students from Primary school • Report on students from SENO 	Principal	June 2014	1 st Year students settled in early and well to be ascertained by surveying 1 st yr. students and parents	March 2015