

# Website Summary of School Self-Evaluation **Literacy**

---

**CBS Kilkenny, 61550G**

**May 2014**



## **1. Introduction**

This School Self-Evaluation (SSE) plan in LITERACY is the first of its kind in a series of self-evaluation projects within CBS Kilkenny. Summaries of these and future plans will be published on the school website, [www.cbsskilkenny.ie](http://www.cbsskilkenny.ie).

## **2. Focus of the Evaluation**

This process of evaluation is carried out in accordance with guidelines published by Department of Education Inspectorate for use in post-primary schools (Dept of Ed Inspectorate, 2012). Using the three themes of Learner Outcomes, Learning Experience and Teachers' Practice, three subthemes were selected for evaluation. These are:

Learner Outcomes:	<b>Attainment</b>
Learning Experience:	<b>Engagement in learning</b>
Teachers' Practice:	<b>Teaching Approaches.</b>

## **3. School Context**

CBS Kilkenny is a voluntary secondary school located in the heart of Kilkenny city. Founded in 1859 by the Christian Brothers, it was transferred to the trusteeship of ERST in 2006. The school has as its mission statement, "Our school, founded by the Christian Brothers, endeavours to be a caring Christian Community which promotes to the best of its ability the personal, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of its students".

CSB Kilkenny has an enrolment of 665 boys and a teaching staff of 42. CBS Kilkenny offers the established JC, LC, TY and LCVP. The school provides instruction in seventeen subjects at JC level and twenty one subjects at LC level. Approximately twenty primary schools in the Kilkenny area are feeder schools to CBS Kilkenny. Enrolment is oversubscribed every year.

## **4. Methodologies and Findings**

Both quantitative and qualitative techniques were employed to gather data in the themed areas over a period of approximately nine months. This included standardised test scores, state examination results and probing surveys of students, parents and teaching staff. These information gathering exercises have provided rich data which has been critically evaluated by management, the Career Guidance and Learning Support departments and subject

SIP Plan: Literacy 2014-2017, CBS Kilkenny

teachers. In particular a **School Improvement Planning (SIP) Group** has been established, comprising nine individuals from a broad spectrum of areas within the school. While this group has been consistently involved in all aspects of the process, a significant number of other staff members have also had the opportunity to be involved in SIP.

SIP for Literacy: Sept 2014 to May 2017	
Themes: Attainment, Engagement in Learning, Teaching Approaches	
Summary of Main Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A very high percentage (approx 80-84%) of students consistently opts for and succeeds at Junior Certificate Higher Level English.</li> <li>• The majority of our students present reading ages above the norms for their age on entry to the school.</li> <li>• Interventions made by the school in 1<sup>st</sup> year have resulted in 87% of students beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> year having attained a reading age above the norms for their age.</li> <li>• Retesting of students using standardised tests at the end of 1<sup>st</sup> year and in 2<sup>nd</sup> year facilitates school self-evaluation in literacy.</li> <li>• Lower to higher order thinking and problem solving are utilised in the majority of lessons.</li> <li>• The great majority of teachers are open to engaging with different teaching approaches and emphasise cross-curricular links in their subjects.</li> <li>• More than 50% of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years profess to love reading.</li> <li>• More than 40% of 1<sup>st</sup> years read more than four books a year.</li> <li>• Awareness of the importance of planning and the correct structuring of written pieces increases from 16-27% of students from 1<sup>st</sup> year to 2<sup>nd</sup> year.</li> <li>• 74% of students feel that accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling are either important or very important.</li> </ul>
Areas prioritised for Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increased level of monitoring is desirable at subject department level to assess candidates' suitability for Higher Level English and ensure candidates sit the examination at the level most suited to their proficiency levels.</li> <li>• 15% of teachers rated themselves as below average in the employment of collaborative and cooperative learning using paired work or group work in their lessons.</li> <li>• 11% of teachers rated themselves as less than 7 out of 10 in the employment of differentiated teaching and testing methodologies in their lessons.</li> <li>• A doubling (14 – 28%) of students who do not read for pleasure at all from 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> year.</li> <li>• A significant increase (1- 6% from 1<sup>st</sup> year to 2<sup>nd</sup> year) in the number of students who feel that accurate grammar, spelling and punctuation are of no importance.</li> </ul>

SIP Plan: Literacy 2014-2017, CBS Kilkenny

Actions to support implementation of SIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Book in the Bag, Reading Record and Editing Checklist</i> initiatives to be extended or implemented.</li><li>• Dedicated literacy class to continue for all 1st year students.</li><li>• Literacy link person to reiterate practices until embedded.</li><li>• <i>Literacy Week</i> to be organised every March to coincide with World Book Day.</li><li>• L.S. Dept. to instigate a reading program for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students in the lowest 2% in terms of reading age.</li><li>• Teacher Practice: permanent vocabulary section of the whiteboard, spelling section of the copy, emphasis on accurate spelling and grammar, AfL, higher order questioning.</li><li>• English Department to analyse 2<sup>nd</sup> year Effort and Commitment Reports and 2<sup>nd</sup> year results to identify students of concern with regards to Junior Cert Higher Level</li><li>• Subject departments to move towards increased digitalisation of records through a shared folder on Google Drive/Moodle.</li><li>• The creation of a Digital Literacy and Numeracy class for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years.</li><li>• Separately, and as part of the future planning for school improvement, actions will be taken by all staff to incorporate the key skills of <b>Managing Myself</b> and <b>Communication</b></li></ul>
--	---

As a parent, we would appreciate your help by encouraging your child to engage fully with all of the Literacy initiatives run in the school.

## 5. Review of the CBS Kilkenny Numeracy School Improvement Plan

This plan will be reviewed annually at the end of May.