

School Improvement Plan

Target Area: English

Teaching and Learning

Theme: Learner Outcomes; Sub-theme: Attainment of Curriculum Objectives

OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN	
Summary of main strengths as identified during SSE: 2012/13	<p>Children are highly engaged and enthusiastic learners.</p> <p>Teachers work collaboratively in planning and delivering the curriculum.</p> <p>Standardised test results in English were showing clear evident of the impact of highly structured teaching of First Steps comprehension strategies.</p> <p>Children (4th-6th classes) are benefiting from self-assessment (using SALF) and are encouraged to set targets for themselves.</p>
Summary of main areas requiring improvement as identified in SSE: 2012/13	<p>Oral language development required further examination in order to utilise the most effective teaching strategies for our school population.</p>
Improvement targets (related to pupils' achievement)	<p>To decrease the gap between percentile scores in comprehension and vocabulary in Drumcondra Standardised English test; the expected level of improvement for each child will vary.</p> <p>To raise children's awareness of the importance of vocabulary development; to provide opportunities for the children to use newly acquired vocabulary in a variety of situations.</p>
Required actions (related to teaching and learning that will help to achieve the targets)	<p>To devise teaching strategies which engage the children in active learning of new vocabulary. The programme would be called Word Wizards.</p> <p>The children would be asked to design a Word Wizards logo.</p> <p>The methodology we use had three definite stages-</p>

	<p>presentation, practice and performance, run concurrently.</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assess prior knowledge• Present new vocabulary• Use of an array of images• Presentation of word banks• Using images and words simultaneously to ensure understanding• Use of real life objects <p>Practice/ performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Word games• Use of new language in context• Story telling• Use of super sentences• Interviews, reports, dialogues• Role play• Performance can also link into inter-group competitions• Use of oral language within the school setting and beyond <p>Teachers will review all test scores for children in 4th, 5th and 6th classes, review their written work and following consultation, divide the children into six teaching groups.</p> <p>Teachers will work collaboratively to select vocabulary topics, to select materials and teaching methodologies.</p> <p>Progress will be closely monitored and groups will be re-set following assessment.</p>
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Persons responsible	Class teachers, support teachers and Principal.
Timeframe for action	Plan and implement October '12 to March '13 Review and decide further development April '13 to September '13.
Success criteria / measurable outcomes	<p>Measurable improvement on test scores.</p> <p>Enriched language in creative writing (poetry and stories).</p> <p>Enhanced abilities in oral language competencies (as per curriculum objectives for each class level); children using newly learned vocabulary in real-life situations.</p>
Review dates	<p>Weekly and monthly planning meetings.</p> <p>Hold focus groups of children to establish their views of Word Wizards</p>

Update on Word Wizards 2013/14	
Actions	<p>September: review all standardised test results to determine if WW has had an impact.</p> <p>Decide method of instruction for current school year. (same theme for 2-3 weeks)</p> <p>Train new teachers in methods (peer tutoring)</p> <p>Include 3rd Class</p> <p>Nov/Dec: WW display board to connect theme.</p>
Changes made to the model	<p>Children were to be taught by their class teacher, instead of being grouped across classes.</p> <p>Reasons: More opportunity for teachers to select sub-topics related to class plans, emphasising cross-curricular links. Time and space constraints</p>
Actions planned for 2014/15	<p>Embed WW in all classes as a teaching and learning methodology.</p> <p>Train all teachers in the methodology (staff meetings and peer tutoring).</p> <p>Select themes for each month (staff meetings)</p> <p>Print logo to raise awareness (use similar to CGB cards)</p> <p>Consider how to transfer the method to the parents</p>

