

Literacy and Numeracy Policy

2022



**ARDSCOIL
MHUIRE**

Contents:

- 1: Introduction**
- 2: Rationale**
- 3: Aims**
- 4: Definition of Literacy**
- 5: Definition of Numeracy**
- 6: Roles and Responsibilities**
- 7: Strategies, Interventions and Initiatives**
- 8: Success Criteria**
- 9: Monitoring**
- 10: Review and Evaluation**

Introduction:

The Literacy and Numeracy policy requires a whole school approach involving students at both Junior and Senior Cycles.

Literacy and numeracy are the cornerstones of all learning. In accordance with the school mission statement all students will be given the opportunity to reach their full potential and gain at least a minimum acceptable standard in areas of literacy and numeracy. Supporting and empowering students to achieve this goal is critical in overcoming educational disadvantage.

Rationale:

Proficient literacy and numeracy levels gives the student control over her own learning in personal, social and cultural domains. The development of literacy and numeracy to the highest possible standard aims at preparing students to participate in State exams, proceed to Third Level education and be competent in the world of work.

In July 2011 the then Minister for Education Ruairí Quinn launched the national literacy and numeracy strategy “Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life 2011-2020”. The aim of the strategy was to improve literacy and numeracy standards among young people in Ireland. An interim review of the strategy took place in 2017 and revised targets were drawn up for 2017-2020.

The rationale behind this strategy was to address our nation’s educational shortcomings where:

- 1 in 10 children in Irish schools have serious difficulty with reading and writing.
- 17% of all Irish 15 year olds lack the literacy skills to function effectively in today’s society.

In line with this national strategy, Ardscoil Mhuire has and will continue to introduce new and develop existing literacy and numeracy initiatives. Whole school standardised testing is now in place in order to identify student problem areas. The initiatives will be chosen on the basis of those deemed most appropriate to meet the needs of our student body. These strategies will be reviewed and developed over a period of time through the utilisation of a variety of evaluation techniques i.e. questionnaires, pre and post testing, standardised tests, verbal feedback and observation.

Aims:

- To educate students towards having a sense of responsibility for their own learning.
- To promote the classroom as a place where productive work is done in an atmosphere of cooperation and respect.
- To develop language skills from the basic literacy of reading and writing to the critical literacy required for analysing and interpreting texts.
- To develop numeracy skills thereby facilitating the student’s access to further learning and functioning in the world of work.

Literacy and Numeracy Policy

- To assist and promote at all levels, the initiatives, delivered by programmes such as the JCSP, LCA and Transition Year which target students at various levels of ability and development.
- To promote and include in as effective a manner as possible students who do not have English as their first language.

Definition of Literacy:

Literacy is the ability to read, write, speak and listen in a way that lets us communicate effectively and make sense of the world around us.

Definition of Numeracy:

Numeracy is the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions that students need in order to use mathematics in a wide range of situations. It involves recognising and understanding the role of mathematics in the world and having the dispositions and capacities to use mathematical knowledge and skills purposefully.

Roles and Responsibilities relating to literacy and numeracy education at Ardscoil Mhuire:

Teams consisting of:

- Senior Management
- Guidance Counsellor
- Special Education Needs Team
- HSC
- DEIS Committee
- Subject Teachers

Strategies, Interventions and Initiatives:

It is the collective responsibility of the whole school community to implement the school Literacy and Numeracy policy. Ardscoil Mhuire undertakes the following to enhance literacy and numeracy standards in the school:

- Concurrent timetabling for English and Maths. This involves the timetabling of English and Maths lessons at the same time for all classes in a year group. As a consequence not only is the movement of students between levels catered for but this also creates opportunities for inter-class, whole year activities and for team teaching.
- Division into ordinary and higher levels will not be done until second year for Maths and third year for English. This strategy allows students, who are going through an important phase of development, the time to reflect and mature, while also encouraging them to have the highest realistic expectations.
- The English and Maths subject plans will be structured and easy to follow. This is of crucial importance for students with any learning difficulties in the area of numeracy and literacy.
- Withdrawal for extra support in the areas of literacy and numeracy as per Department allocation.
- JCSP for 1st, 2nd and 3rd years as per selection criteria (See JCSP Policy).

Literacy and Numeracy Policy

- After school activities.
- Homework Club for 1st and 2nd years in conjunction with SCP
- After school supervised study.
- Promotion of Reward Systems i.e. Merits, Academic Progress Cards, JCSP and LCA Celebrations etc.
- Identification of students with particular difficulties in the areas of literacy and numeracy via in-house assessment, NEPS and special accommodations.
- Setting achievable goals in subjects pertaining to literacy and numeracy.

Literacy Initiatives	Numeracy Initiatives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accelerated Reader 2. EAL classes 3. SORA Reading App for all students 4. JCSP Statements 5. Rehearsed Reading for struggling or reluctant readers 6. Reading for Fun 7. E-learning 8. Library Classes for TY students 9. Senior Cycle active learning in the form of attending plays and poetry recitals relevant to the curriculum. 10. JCSP Make a Book 11. JCSP Word Millionaire 12. Differentiation of lessons 13. JCSP notebooks 14. VEP Programme 15. Speech, Language and Communication (SCL) therapy 16. Spellzone for targeted SEN students 17. Literacy Week 18. "In Pieces" gifted to all 1st years 19. LCA Key Assignments and tasks 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. JCSP statements 2. "Maths for Fun" and similar programmes to promote a positive attitude towards Maths. 3. Mangahigh for SEN and JCSP Students 4. Numeracy Across the Curriculum 5. Minute Maths 6. Numeracy Week 7. Junior and Senior Cycle Puzzle of the Day – Maths Week 8. E-learning 9. Class set of mathematics sets 10. LCA key assignments and tasks 11. Deep Dive Numeracy 12. Ninja Maths (SEN) 13. Functional Maths Skills 14. Visual Signs throughout the school to create awareness of distance and measurement 15. Guest speakers who promote numeracy 16. Number Millionaire

Success Criteria:

- Ongoing assessment to include class tests and standardised tests.
- House exams.
- JCSP statements and Awards.
- Junior Certificate results.
- Leaving Certificate Results.
- Leaving Certificate Applied Results.
- Progression to Third Level

Literacy and Numeracy Policy

- The meeting of DEIS plan targets
- Nomination for an Academic Award
- Student Support Plans
- Teacher Feedback

Monitoring Implementation:

- Board of Management.
- Senior Management.
- Guidance Counsellor
- Special Educational Needs Team
- HSCL
- JCSP Coordinator
- DEIS Committee
- Subject Teachers

Review and Evaluation:

The progress made by the school in the area of literacy and numeracy education will be reviewed by:

- Student questionnaires
- Subject Department Meeting
- Staff Meetings
- SEN Committee Meetings
- DEIS Meetings
- Pre and post testing of initiatives
- Achievements in state exams.
- Review of SSF targets.
- Standardised testing.
- House exams.

Reviewed on: _____

To be reviewed on: _____

Signed: _____

Sr Ena Quinlan
Chairperson
Board of Management

Date: _____