Dominican College Wicklow

61860V

School Improvement Plan

2016 - 2019

Our School Improvement Plan	
Summary of main strengths as identified in SSE on May 2016	- The STen scores for reading of 1st Years surveyed are above the national norms - Standardised scores for CAT verbal analysis are above the national norms for this same cohort of students 63% of students are reading fiction for enjoyment - Attainment at both JC and Leaving Cert is generally above the National average - There is a willingness to collaborate among staff - The majority of students have a very positive attitude towards learning - There is a lot of baseline data available on students in DCW
Summary of main areas requiring improvement as identified in SSE report in May 2016 (also identified in WSE-MLL Report, August 2016)	- Increase the number of students taking Higher level in English and Maths - Increase the expectations and standards in writing across the curriculum - Increase the number of students reading for enjoyment - Increase the number of books that students read for enjoyment per year - Increase the number of students who can make oral presentations comfortably in class - Improvement in students' basic computation skills and their application - Increase in self and peer assessment - Improve the performance of students at Leaving Certificate-more As and Bs - Differentiated approach to teaching and assessment - Review of the TY Curriculum - School timetable - Whole-school communications

Target 1: **Literacy** target 1				
Improvement Targets (related to students' achievement)	**Required Actions (related to Teaching and Learning to help achieve targets)**	**Persons responsible**	**Success Criteria /Measurable outcomes**	**Timeframe for Actions**
To increase literacy levels, and subject literacy among all students	Key words to be displayed on walls in all classrooms. Learning outcomes to be placed on board at the beginning of the lesson Posters promoting the use of good grammar to be displayed on walls. Spelling bee to be held for 1st Yrs. & 2nd Yrs. in March 2017. Punctuation to be emphasised in all classes. Encourage reading to improve awareness of when to use paragraphs. Standardised marking for errors to be used by all teachers e.g. **S** (spelling), **C** (Capital letter).	• Teaching and Learning Team • Teachers of 1st Year English • SSE Co-ordinator • English/debating teacher	• Literacy levels to be assessed annually using a standardised test commencing with 1st Years and Second Year students.	Commence October 2016 and continue 2016, 2017,2018
To increase the % of 1st Year students who love reading for enjoyment	Staff and parents to encourage reading for enjoyment among 1st Years Staff to provide opportunities for 1st Year students to engage in oral presentations / discussions in pairs / groups / class contexts	• All teachers of 1st Years • Parents	• Surveys to monitor increase in reading for enjoyment • An increase from 25% to 30% of 1st Yr. students indicating that they love reading for enjoyment	May 2018
To promote the importance of oral literacy	Increase the number of students taking part in debating Oral Presentations in class	• 1st Year English/debating teachers • 1st Year subject teachers	• Participation in debates within and without the school • Poetry Aloud	2017-2019

Target 1: **Literacy** target 2				
Improvement Targets (related to students' achievement)	**Required Actions (related to Teaching and Learning to help achieve targets**	**Persons responsible**	**Success Criteria /Measurable outcomes**	**Timeframe for Actions**
To increase the percentage of students reading for enjoyment for more than one hour per week from 40% in December 2016 to 50% in May 2018 **To increase the number of students reading more than two books per year**	• Book in the Bag for 1st and 2nd Years • DEAR strategy once a month for 1st, 2nd and TY Years from Nov. '16 to May 2018 • Use of the library to be encouraged at lunch time by prefects • Each student will complete a book review – encourage inclusion of reviews in Year Book • Acknowledgement of student achievement e.g. Prize for quantity of books read and quality of book reviews • Asking the Parents' Association to help re-stock the Library with more current book titles.	Year Heads, Tutors & teachers to encourage students to have a book in their bag Senior management to organise a DEAR time once a month Senior Prefects to encourage use of Library at Lunch time Book Club—Senior Prefects with Student Council with help of one adult to organise Parents' Association	Increase in the number of students reading for enjoyment for more than one hour per week from 40% in Dec. '16 to 50% in May '18	BITB during free classes and DEAR time for 1st and 2nd Years in 2016/2017/2018
	Create an awareness amongst parents in relation to the benefits of reading for enjoyment – feedback of L&N results to parents and display at 1st Yr. P-T meeting re reading for pleasure	Annual NGRT to be administered to all First and Second Year students.		Parents at information meeting Sept 2016 and PTM in January 2017
	Commence a database of students' borrowing of library books	Library prefects will be trained to monitor students' borrowing online	Increase in the level of borrowing books from the library	January 2017: 1st Yr. Library Launch
	Increase volume of books in the library	Principal & local book shops. Parents Association	Greater availability of modern reading material for students	January 2017
	1st Year students will record books read in their journal	1st Years record books read in their journal English teacher checks the students' journals Parents sign the journals	Records of books read is kept as a data base for other students	Every month in 2016/2017/2018

Target 1: Literacy target 3				
To increase the number of students taking higher level English at Junior Cert from 85% in 2016 to 88% in 2017 and 90% in 2018	1.Higher Level English to be the default level for 88% of 1st Years in 2017 and 90% in 2018 (based on STen and CAT scores) 2.Common assessment at Christmas and at the end of 1st Year 3. Standardised test to measure literacy development of 1st Years and Second Years 4. Online record of monthly grades for students	• English Department • All JC teachers • 1st Year Year-Head • Senior management • Career Guidance • SSE Coordinator • JC teachers	• An increase in the number taking Higher level English at Junior Cert • All students attempting the Higher level to achieve at least a D grade	Information to parents of 1st Years at Meeting in September 2016. Assessment at Christmas 2016 and Summer 2017. Online record for Sixth Year students in October 2016. Other year groups - 2017
	5. Standard form and procedures for changing level in English and all subjects 6. Monitoring by Year Heads to put in place student supports to improve literacy & student attainment	• Senior management • English Department • Guidance Department • Parents • 1st Yr. Year Head – under review	Standard form for changing levels with consent from student, teacher & parent Increased parental involvement in reading for pleasure.	Student Journal results checked monthly by Year Heads – under review.

Target No 2: **Improving Student Learning Outcomes** target 1				
Improvement Targets (related to students' achievement)	**Required Actions (related to Teaching and Learning to help achieve targets)**	**Persons responsible**	**Success Criteria /Measurable outcomes**	**Timeframe for Actions**
Improving the performance of all students at State Exams e.g. increased A's and B's at leaving Cert level	Tracking students' performance in all tests commencing with 1) Results supplied by Primary schools 2) Entrance test results 3) All house exams /assessments 4) Any State exams taken 5) Any additional testing administered during their time in school Interviewing all exam students re their performance at exams with a view to putting supports in place for students. Ensuring that no student is allowed to fall below their expected performance from CAT test	• Class Teachers • Year Head • Senior management • Guidance Counsellor • Tracking Coordinators	Increase in the number of higher grades obtained by students at State Exams Increase in the number of students attempting Higher level papers	Commencing 2017 For Review: 2018 /2019

Target No 2: **Improving student experience in school** target 2				
Improvement Targets (related to students' achievement)	**Required Actions (related to Teaching and Learning to help achieve targets)**	**Persons responsible**	**Success Criteria /Measurable outcomes**	**Timeframe for Actions**
Improving the student experience in the classroom and outside the classroom	Expand the whole school community based approach to Bullying prevention Introduce a whole school community based approach to positive Mental Wellbeing	Principal/ DP/SPHE Teachers/Tutors Deputy Principal/Year Heads/Guidance Counsellor/Subject teachers/SPHE teachers – all teacher	Reduction in levels of anxiety among students Most Traveller students will participate in the UCD-EU PEER Project and visit UCD to speak about Traveller culture at a European conference for Traveller students	November 2014 onwards Ongoing Annually March 2015- ongoing

	Target the attendance of students who are at risk of early school-leaving	Túsla	Traveller students and students of Irish and other cultures will actively work on the Diversity Committee towards obtaining the Yellow Flag	September 2016 – December 2017
	Improve the school experience & engagement of Traveller students and new Irish students	Dr. Catherine Merrigan, UCD		
		Yellow Flag Movement		
	Setting up of a Yellow Flag Diversity Committee to promote inclusion & develop & implement an action plan to promote inclusion and inter-culturalism	Deputy Principal Yellow Flag Diversity committee	The attendance rate of students at risk of early school-leaving will improve	
To develop and implement a programme of support for high academic achievement in 1st and 2nd Year	Consultation with students who achieved CAT4 scores above 110 and their parents	1st & 2nd Yr. Year Head	Academic grades of the student focus group will improve	February 2016 – April 2016
		All staff of 1st and 2nd Years		
	Establish a peer tutor team to design and implement a programme of support for academic success	Deputy Principal & Peer Tutor students	More engagement in learning among students with high academic ability	
	Teachers include differentiation of tasks and homework with extension exercises for higher academic achievement	Teachers of 1st & 2nd Yr.	Increased self-motivation and goal-setting for self-directed learning	
			Academic progress made in subjects identified by student as presenting particular difficulty	
	Track the academic attainment of the student group and report to parents and staff	Principal & Deputy Principal		
To support 1st Yr. students in their academic progress	Recruit new Peer Tutors for Homework Club to support 1st Yr students each Monday	Deputy Principal Peer Tutor students	Goal-setting and target-setting by students to continue progress	November 2016 – May 2018
	Purchase iPads to support learning in Homework Club	Deputy Principal	Increased engagement in learning and homework among target-students	

Target No 3 Numeracy target 1				
Improvement Targets (related to students' achievement) 1	**Required Actions (related to Teaching and Learning to help achieve targets)**	**Persons responsible**	**Success Criteria /Measurable outcomes**	**Timeframe for Actions**
To increase the number of students taking higher level Mathematics at Junior Cert from 49% in 2016 to 60% in 2017 and 75% in 2018	1. Higher Level Maths to be the default level for 75% of 1st Years (based on STen , CAT & PTM scores) 2. Common assessment at Christmas and at the end of 1st Year 3. Standardised test to measure numeracy development of 1st Years and Second Years 4.CPD on standardised assessment information	• Maths Department • 1st Yr. Year Head • Senior management • Career Guidance	• An increase in the numbers taking Higher level in Maths at Junior Cert. • All students attempting the higher level to achieve at least a D grade	Information to parents of 1st Years at Meeting in September 2017. Assessment at Christmas 2016 and Summer 2017 CPD in September 2016 Standardised assessment for First and Second Years May 2017
	5. Standard form and procedures for changing level 6. Year Head monitoring to put in place student supports for numeracy 7. Reduction in size of classes in Senior cycle Maths	• Senior management • Maths Department • Year Heads	Standard form for changing levels Increased parental involvement in checking homework	Student Journal results checked monthly by Year Heads – under review May 2016/17

Target No 3 Numeracy target 2				
Improvement Targets (related to students' Achievement) 2	**Required Actions (related to Teaching and Learning to help achieve targets)**	**Persons responsible**	**Success Criteria /Measurable outcomes**	**Timeframe for Actions**
To expand students' application to basic computation skills from	Teachers will encourage students to join Maths Club.	Mathematics teachers	Participation in Maths / numeracy competitions to increase from 15 to 20 students	September 2016 – May '18

September 2016 to May 2017	Students are encouraged to hypothesise, propose solutions and explain their reasoning.		Differentiation of assessment in tests	
	Teacher/student use of multiple means of representing information, including numbers, graphs and charts to represent and draw inferences about data.	All teachers		
	Celebration of Science Week Celebration of Maths Week	Science teachers Maths teachers		September 2016 October 2016
	Introduction of Coding in TY	Senior Management/teacher		
	Student record Assessment scores in their school journal	All students and teachers		Ongoing

Target No 3 Numeracy target 3				
Improvement Targets (related to students' Achievement) 3	**Required Actions (related to Teaching and Learning to help achieve targets)**	**Persons responsible**	**Success Criteria /Measurable outcomes**	**Timeframe for Actions**
To examine and increase the whole school cross-curricular application of numeracy skills	Identify the Maths Link teacher in each subject Dept.	Maths Department & subject co-ordinators	Subject lesson plans will provide for cross-curricular numeracy links	September 2016-May 2017 (to be reviewed in May 2018)
	Identify numeracy demands of subjects	All teachers	Differentiation	
	Students will graph their progress in each subject in their Student Journals	All students and teachers	Students will be able to use mathematical computations across a range of subjects and apply them in different contexts	
	Agree and implement a common approach to teaching and assessing numeracy skills.	Maths Department		

	Use teaching strategies such as • Practical activities • Practical applications of numeracy to subject content, where relevant • Structured group work	All teachers		