



St Kilian's Community School

Policy Name: St Kilian's Community School Numeracy Policy
(ratified by the Board of Management on 17/12/2018)

Introduction:

This document sets out the policy of St Kilian's Community School in respect of the advice, supports and teaching of numeracy as part of the integrated education of its students.

This policy has been developed in the context of the National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young People (2011-2020).

Rationale:

Numeracy skills enable pupils to understand and interpret numerical and graphical information. This facilitates improvement in pupils' abilities to make their own judgements and to draw sensible conclusions from information.

Almost all subjects depend on pupils having competence in basic numeracy skills.

If pupils' numeracy skills are not developed and used they may well be denied the opportunity to develop the level of understanding of some topics or subjects at the level expected for their age.

Without basic numeracy skills, pupils can lack both personal and social adequacy which is a recipe for failure and low esteem.

Industry and commerce continually bemoan the lack of numeracy skills of school leavers and graduates alike.

This Numeracy Policy aims to ensure that appropriate opportunities and procedures are in place to enable the school to:

- ensure that all students are supported in improving their numeracy skills.
- target interventions and support students with poor numeracy skills.
- promote consistency of practice in methodology, vocabulary, use of resources, etc.
- develop cross-curricular links with numeracy which can be supported by all subject teachers.
- recognise the numeracy demands of specific subjects.
- ensure subject-specific numeracy is taught in all subject areas, including subject-specific vocabulary.

Objectives:

The school shall have in place appropriate means and processes to:

- assess students' numeracy skills.
- raise staff awareness of data about the numeracy ability of students.
- use this data to identify areas for improvement, and to set targets for groupings in the context of the school's DEIS planning.
- decide on and implement initiatives to achieve these targets.
- use the scores of annual testing to measure the success of the strategies employed.
- improve cross-curricular numeracy and raise general awareness of the importance of numeracy.
- promote common strategies for use in every classroom, irrespective of subject area.
- implement team-teaching strategies to support students where resources permit.

Content / Delivery of Objectives:

- A whole-school approach to numeracy to be encouraged.
- Management to provide for Numeracy training for staff.
- Maths classrooms have resources and visual displays which promote numeracy in general, and specific focus areas such as keywords and formulae.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year students are tested every November using *The Maths Competency Test*. This provides baseline data which informs planning in the area of numeracy.
- Classes following the JCSP programme follow a Numeracy programme, for which they are timetabled two to three, team-taught Numeracy lessons every week.
- Subject to available resources, students who require same will be provided with specific individualised instruction.
- 1st Year students take part in *Numeracy Ninja* for mental arithmetic.
- Educational maths games are available from the School Library e.g. *Flash Masters, IZAK9, Cubits, 22 Kadu*.
- Participate in Maths week and run fun activities during the week.
- Maths trails are organised for junior years, and run by 4th years.
- Clocks are in every classroom. Students are taught and encouraged to read the time for themselves.
- The times of all classes are displayed on the walls in classroom.
- JCSP class groups use maths skills booklets e.g. Christmas Maths.
- Class test and end-of-term examinations marks will provide students with opportunities to estimate, total and compute their scores in different forms e.g. fractions and percentages.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Board of Management

- Approve the Numeracy Policy.
- Ensure the policy is implemented, developed and reviewed at regular intervals

School Management

- Promote numeracy as a whole-school priority.
- Make provision, through timetabling and deployment of teaching and other resources, for the promotion of numeracy and the implementation of the Numeracy Policy.
- Monitor the implementation of the policy.
- Provide for the regular review and development of the policy.

Classroom Teacher

- Promote numeracy in class
- Have regard for the whole school Numeracy Policy in their planning of lessons.
- Use and explain mathematical vocabulary whenever it will enhance students' knowledge, skills and understanding of the topic. The use of such vocabulary by students should be strongly encouraged.
- Give emphasis to mental calculation when it is sensible to do so.
- Encourage pupils to estimate when appropriate.
- Use and explain appropriate calculations and data whenever it will enhance students' knowledge and understanding of the topic. The explanation should be in line with whole school policy.
- Liaise with the Mathematics Department when using mathematical skills earlier than met in the mathematics scheme of work.
- Demonstrate how to measure to the required degree of accuracy.
- Choose and use appropriate units of measure correctly.
- Demonstrate how to use the four key number operations, with and without a calculator.
- Demonstrate how to select a type of graph appropriate to the data provided.
- Develop the students' skills of correctly labelling graphs and charts.
- Teach the correct interpretation of graphs and charts and make appropriate comparisons where more than one graph illustrates the data.

- Explain the steps involved in the solution of problems.
- Discuss and clarify why a particular method of calculation works.
- Include the Numeracy Policy in subject department folders.
- Incorporate relevant parts of the policy into subject plans.

SET Team

- Specific targeted interventions are co-ordinated through the SET team.

Pupils

- Make correct use of mathematical vocabulary when providing oral and written answers or asking questions.
- Present ideas and information they have collected in the form of displays of charts and tables.
- Interpret, describe and explain their work and not simply reproduce graphs, tables and charts or statements concerning percentages and other numerical data.
- Set their work out systematically and with care. Where there are calculations these should always be set out so the method used is clear. Where there are graphs these should always show a suitable scale, be correctly labelled and have a title.

Consultation:

- B.O.M.
- Student Council
- Parents Association
- Maths Department
- All staff members

Monitoring Implementation:

The Numeracy Committee monitors the implementation of the policy.

Evaluation & Review:

The Numeracy Committee meets regularly and evaluates and reviews the Numeracy Policy.
Subject department planning evaluates and reviews the policy at subject level.
This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Board of Management.

Communication:

This policy is available on the school website (www.stkilianscs.com)
Hard copies are available in the school.
The policy is referenced as part of induction for new teaching staff members.