

OUR LADY OF LOURDES SECONDARY SCHOOL
NEW ROSS, CO. WEXFORD.

LITERACY POLICY.

Definition of Literacy.

Literacy is the term used to embrace all forms of language learning. It includes the capacity to read, understand and critically appreciate various forms of communication, including the spoken language, traditional writing, printed text, broadcast media and digital media.

Rationale for Literacy.

The development of literacy skills is essential to support students' learning and improve standards across the curriculum because:

- Students need vocabulary and expression to deal with the cognitive demands of subjects.
- Responding to higher order questions enables the development of thinking skills.
- Language helps us to evaluate and reflect the things we do and on things others have said, written or done.
- Improving on literacy skills can have a positive effect on students' self-esteem, motivation and behaviour.
- High standards of literacy, assist students to learn independently and enhances their ability to communicate.

What is the aim of this literacy strategy?

The strategy aims to ensure that every student is able to speak, read, write and spell at a level that enables her to participate fully in education in the local, national and global communities in which she lives.

Aims of this policy.

Our Lady of Lourdes will adopt a Whole School Approach to literacy to ensure that:

- Literacy skills are embedded across the whole school curriculum
- An environment is developed in which positive attitudes towards reading, writing, speaking and listening skills are developed and monitored.
- All teachers have a crucial role in the development of students' literacy skills.
- An awareness of literacy skills is regarded as a key skill in all aspects of teaching and learning. These skills are clearly linked to success in state examinations.
- We are all conscious of the fact that good competence in language skills, is central to a student's sense of identity, belonging and growth.
- We can identify areas of strength and weakness and use this information to assist in our planning.

Our Aims for 2016/2017.

We are aiming to achieve the following;

- To improve the reading habits of students.
- To foster reading for enjoyment.
- To promote students' appreciation of different types of texts.
- To develop cross curricular links with literacy that can be supported by all subject teachers.

Strategies we have undertaken to date:

- All First Years completed a survey on their reading habits.
- Word of the Week is highlighted on the literacy noticeboard.
- A Book-club was set up.
- In conjunction with World Book Day, the whole school had a DEAR reading class. Positive feedback was received and some of these opinions were placed on the notice board.
- A "Spelling Bee" competition was undertaken by First, Second and Third Years.
- First and Second Years had a reading challenges where they had between five and eight books to read.

Our objectives for 2016/2017.

- Continue with a reading challenge for First and Second Years and look at the possibility of introducing it to Third Year and Transition Years.
- Promote the school library on a whole school basis using various events to encourage more students to access it on a more regular basis.
- Book in a Bag. All students will be encouraged to have a book with them in school and this will allow for DEAR time to be implemented at suitable intervals. We will look at the possibility of doing this through other languages.
- This year we aim to have a Spelling Bee competition for both junior and senior students.
- We will look at the possibility of doing a paired reading class between First and Transition Year students at designated times during the year.
- Word of the Week will continue with the possibility of incorporating terms from specific subjects.
- Book Swap. We will look at the possibility of a book swap in classes to promote World Book Day.