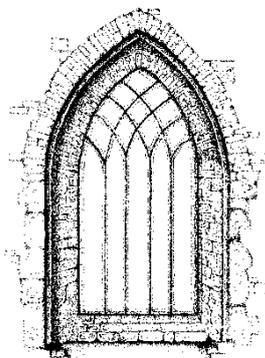


**COLÁISTE MHUIRE, ASKEATON**

**71700F**



**School Self-Evaluation**

**Summary Report for School Community**

**Numeracy**

Evaluation period: September 2013 to  
September 2014

Report Date: November 2014

## Summary School Self-Evaluation Report Numeracy

### 1. Introduction

Coláiste Mhuire is located in a rural setting. There are 33 teachers and 440 pupils in the school. The school offers a broad curriculum at Junior and Senior cycle including LCVP. Transition Year is well established. For more information on how we intend to improve our students' learning, please see our summary School Improvement Plan which is available on the school website, [www.colaistemhuireask.ie](http://www.colaistemhuireask.ie)

#### 1.1 The focus of the evaluation

We undertook a school self-evaluation of teaching and learning during the year 2013/2014. We evaluated Numeracy for one specific cohort. We evaluated Numeracy because of the new emphasis on the Literacy and Numeracy strategy as outlined in the national strategy-*Literacy and Numeracy For Learning and Life- The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young People 2011-2020*. Literacy was evaluated last year.

This report summarises the strengths that were identified and the areas that have been prioritised for improvement.

### 2. Summary of school self-evaluation findings

We examined the results of standardised tests and in-house tests in 1<sup>st</sup> year Maths. We surveyed students on their attitudes, abilities and interests in Maths and Numeracy. We surveyed staff re teachers' practice in relation to Numeracy in their subject area. We also looked at the uptake of higher level Maths in Junior Cert 2014 and analysed the results of these exams.

**2.1** We found that our school has **strengths** in the following areas:

#### Strengths

- The commitment, drive, energy and experience of the board of management, senior management and staff is evidence that the school is well placed to progress the self-evaluation process (WSE-MLL Finding: 2012)
- Senior management promotes a culture of self-evaluation and review within the school community. (WSE-MLL 2012)
- There is a strong culture of CPD and involvement in school improvement initiatives.
- The willingness of teachers to engage with projects and initiatives was commended in the WSE-MLL report. The report stated that students are the ultimate beneficiaries through enhanced learning opportunities in the classroom.
- Uptake of higher level Maths in Junior Cert equates to the national average.

- More students in Coláiste Mhuire achieved grades A-C in the Junior Cert Higher Level Maths exam in 2014 than the national average. The failure rate at Higher Level was below the national average.
- No student failed Ordinary or Foundation Levels.
- Staff recognises the importance of Numeracy and recognise that Numeracy moments exist in their subject.
- 64% of students like Maths.
- 86% of students have someone to help them at home.
- 97% of staff feel that Numeracy is part of their subject.
- 93% of staff feel they have a role to play in teaching Numeracy in Coláiste Mhuire.

We know that these are our strengths because of feedback from the WSE-MLL in September 2012, an Incidental Inspection in April 2013 and the analysis of a variety of data collected during the course of this evaluation. In addition, ongoing staff consultation and evaluation have highlighted these particular strengths and made an ongoing commitment to cementing and furthering Numeracy strategies and initiatives.

## **2.2 We have decided to prioritise the following areas for development:**

### **Areas for development**

- Increase the number of students who like Maths.
- Review the in-house exams in 1<sup>st</sup> year Maths as the house exam results are not correlating with the standardised test results.
- Encourage mental Maths in all classrooms.
- Agree and implement common approaches to problems.
- The environment of the school needs to become Numeracy rich.
- Topics such as fractions need focus and a new approach
- Increased uptake of higher level is to be encouraged
- Further development of a cross-curricular approach to Numeracy.

We have decided to prioritise these areas because of the value we place on the core skills associated with Numeracy. We feel that students will benefit from having a broad range of Numeracy skills in all areas of school life and ultimately the Numeracy skills to take forward into adult life and the wider community.