



Coláiste Cois Siúire

**Draft Report of Literacy Committee
30/11/00**

Theoretical Framework: There is a considerable body of research, which suggests that thought development, is determined by language. Real concepts are impossible without words, and thinking in concepts does not exist beyond verbal thinking. This places language right at the centre of the child's intellectual development.

Vision: it is the vision of the Literacy Committee that (1) all students achieve their maximum possible levels of literacy by the end of junior cycle. (2) the school achieves the National Average of 80% taking Higher Level in Junior Cert.

Mission/ Active Plan: Consultation with 6th Class teachers in the national schools will be part of this plan. The reading tests and the entrance exam help to identify those with reading problems but a more stringent test carried out by the literacy group should be of more benefit to those with special needs.

- (1) Test all 1st Year students by standard tests plus our own literacy tests based on their 6th standard textbooks and local interest.
- (2) All teachers make a word list of the relevant subject words, which is to be displayed on the classroom wall.
- (3) That a mentoring team, consisting of students, parents and teachers be set up for special needs pupils.
- (4) As Literacy involves language across the curriculum this necessitates an input from (a) all teachers (b) Special needs teachers and (c) Language teachers.
- (5) Subject teachers to adopt their teaching techniques and programmes to cater for students with Literacy problems within their classes. Literacy provisions to be inclusive of numeric provision.
- (6) An end of year assessment of pupils mentored will be carried out by means of (i) standardise reading test administered by special needs teacher (ii) house examination which will be separate from the summer tests.
- (7) We aim to expand the library facilities by devoting a certain portion of library materials, which cater especially for those with literacy difficulties. This is justified, as the library is important to all pupils regardless of subject choices.
- (8) Seek the provision of a purpose built Library, built on the school campus but controlled and operated by the Library Service of County Kilkenny and this submission to be put to the Board of Management at its next meeting.

Results:

- (1) All students should achieve their maximum level of literacy by the end of junior cycle.
- (2) There should be a more positive attitude between student and staff.
- (3) A greater number of students should be able to take higher level at senior cycle.
- (4) School student intake should be positively affected.
- (5) With an improvement in general literacy standards becoming apparent within the student body, it should encourage the student to take a more responsible attitude towards his/ her own future.
- (6) Folder supplied for each special needs student and each class signed and dated by teacher and pupil.
- (7) Present level of subjects: - too many
Drop one subject and use those four periods for the withdrawal groups.
- (8) A set of tests to be set for September and June including the SMOG Test, to test progress. Access to the "Read Write Now" pack for adult literacy service.
- (9) Two-pronged approach for those with special needs. Withdrawals of 4 timetable classes for the care group.
Possible team teaching approach for the second group (if feasible)
Extension of Primary school assistant programmes.