

Literacy Report - to date (Feb. 2017)

The literacy team at Colaiste na Toirbhirte currently consists of:

- Ms. Nicole Keating (History and English)
- Ms. Leanne McCarthy (Music and English)
- Ms. Linda Hall (Home Economics, S.E.N. Coordinator)

Literacy began its implementation in 2014, so we are in year 3.

The following strategies are being implemented, or are to be implemented, as a staff and student body during this academic year. The main aim of our literacy strategy is to foster a love of reading for pleasure and to apply a whole – school approach to improving effective communication skills.

School Magazine:

Over the next couple of weeks, we will be working on publishing a school magazine. This will cover all the exciting things happening for all years in our school, showcasing all the various talents that our students have excelled in over this academic year. It also allows students to contribute to a publication where they can display various writing styles in a meaningful manner.

Book Club & Library:

The school is currently running a Junior Book Club. We meet and discuss books that we have read and enjoyed. This is to tie in with the library facilities that are available to the students and to promote and foster a love of reading for enjoyment. Students are encouraged to make use of the library facilities in the school regularly throughout the year, with competitions being ran and avid readers rewarded, as well as displaying a 'Word Wall' that students can contribute to with new words they have come across.

Focus Group:

We will be piloting a new initiative, developed by the literacy team, in monitoring improvements in spelling and grammar. We hope that this will be able to inform the teaching and learning of spelling and vocabulary for teachers and students.

Print – Rich Environments:

All teachers are encouraged to have posters including subject – specific vocabulary in each room.

WellRead Award:

The Literacy team is hoping to apply for the WellRead award for Post – Primary schools in the coming year, run by the Professional Development Service for Teachers. This will further encourage students to read for pleasure and enjoyment.

Digital Literacy:

Students and teachers are encouraged to use 'Edmodo' and other digital learning platforms to enhance students' digital literacy skills. This encourages them to further engage with material covered in class and to further their own learning if applicable.