



Malahide Community School
'Literacy for the 21st Century'
Literacy Policy

We focus on the following definition of Literacy:

“Literacy includes the capacity to read, understand and critically appreciate various forms of communication including spoken language, printed text, broadcast media and digital media.”

(Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life, DES, 2011-2020)

Vision:

In conjunction with our School Vision, our vision for **Literacy** is to engage, inspire and enthuse students with regards to their literacy skills, to ensure that they can actively engage as 21st century citizens.

This vision pertains to all of our students. As a school, we will endeavour to ensure that our students can:

- actively and fluently read a variety of texts (fiction, non-fiction, digital media, visual texts)
- have the ability to ask questions about what they read
- navigate the internet and make judgements about what they read online
- participate fully in society
- communicate confidently
- use their literacy skills to access, understand, analyse and evaluate subject content
- use their literacy skills to express themselves creatively: including orally, written, digitally
- articulate their thoughts and emotions fluently and confidently
- write effectively in a variety of genres / registers, across the curriculum
- learn to listen, interpret, understand, make judgements and respond to what they hear

Whole School Initiative:

Literacy is the responsibility of all of the education partners in the whole school community

Literacy Focus Group:

A Literacy Focus Group was established in 2012 to drive the promotion of **Literacy** and to liaise with the whole school community, including students, parents, the primary school community and educational organisations. It is the collective responsibility of the Whole School community to implement the school literacy plan, as outlined in our School Improvement Plan, (SIP).

Targets:

In line with the National Strategy for Literacy and Numeracy, (***Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life, DES, 2011-2020***) some of our targets include:

- to raise awareness of the importance of oral and written language in all its forms, (including print, writing and digital media)
- to improve our attitudes to literacy
- to foster an enjoyment of reading within the school
- to set and monitor targets of literacy e.g. the targets outlined in our SIP for Literacy
- to evaluate teaching and learning in literacy

Actions and interventions:

Actions and interventions to support the quality of teaching and learning in the promotion of **Literacy** that we espouse in our school include:

- teacher CPD
- literacy strategies
- Print Rich Environment
- DEAR weeks
- Reading Logs

- TY Credits for Reading
- Merit Award for TY Reader of the Year
- eLeabharlann / School Library / Local Library
- Book-in-the Bag
- Website
- Schoology
- Book Club
- Red 'Reading Wall'
- Use of the Library
- Debating
- Oral Presentations
- Short Story Writing competitions
- Poetry Competitions
- Digital Portfolios
- Film-making
- PDST Well Read Initiative
- National Programmes
- Literacy Association of Ireland Workshops / Conferences
- PDST Literacy Seminars / Conferences
- Others

Role of the Library and Promotion of Reading in Malahide Community School

The school Librarian liaises with the coordinator of English on a regular basis. Working with the teachers of English, a timetable for booking the **Library** is available, with a special priority given to all 1st year classes. Other whole class English groups may avail of this option, where possible.

Ordering of new books for the Library is done by the Librarian in conjunction with subject co-ordinators and teachers. Teachers are invited to submit requests for books in writing (email) to the Librarian. Students also may do the same, through their English teacher.

The Library in Malahide Community School is used primarily to promote reading as a source of pleasure.

The Library is made available to teachers if they wish to run quizzes, have students present projects, host class debates or invite speakers to the school. The work of students can also be displayed in the Library.

Malahide Community School also has an **e-Library** available to students. This **digital Library (Leabharlann)** is accessed via the School Home page.

In accordance with the National Literacy Strategy *Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life (2011-2020)*, Malahide Community School has also implemented the following practices, to promote reading:

In **First Year English**, one lesson a week is given over to reading. Students bring in their own physical or digital books to read during class time. Teachers can also provide some recommended reading through the class **Schoology** page. Students are required to complete the **Reading Log** in their school journal. Students receive a Certificate on completion of the Reading Log at the end of the school year.

In **Transition Year English**, one lesson a week is also given over to reading. Students bring in their own physical or digital books to read during class time. Teachers can also provide some recommended reading through the class **Schoology** page. Students are also required to complete a **Reading Log** in their journal or copy. Students can gain extra **credits** if they submit five book reviews through the T.Y. Schoology Reading Log.

Select T.Y. students skilled in IT also provide support to first year students with difficulty accessing the **Leabharlann** App.

Timetabling of First Year English Classes:

Since September, 2016, First Year English students have been provided with five class periods of English, per week. One class period is devoted to Reading for Enjoyment.

Recommended Research & Reading:

- Department of Education and Skills. (2011) *Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life: The National Strategy to improve Literacy and Numeracy among children and young people 2011-2020*. Dublin: author.
- Junior Certificate School Programme Support Service & Curriculum Development. (2008) *Unit Resources for Developing a School-Wide Literacy Plan*. Dublin: author.
- Aideen Cassidy and Bernadette Kiely. (2001) *Between the Lines: Literacy at Junior Cycle*. Dublin: JCSP Support Service & Curriculum Development Unit.
- www.pdst.ie

- www.jcsp.ie
- www.adlit.org
- Literacy Association of Ireland

Ratified by the Board of Management: 24th October, 2017