



Malahide Community School

Numeracy Policy

In Malahide Community School, we aim to raise the achievement of all students by seeking to develop their Numeracy skills through consistent and accurate application across the curriculum.

We have adopted the following definition of Numeracy:

"Numeracy encompasses the ability to use mathematical understanding and skills to solve problems and to meet the demands of day-to-day living in complex social settings. It means being able to:

- estimate, predict and calculate
- identify patterns, trends and relationships
- gather, interpret and represent data
- express ideas mathematically
- engage in problem solving, using investigation and reasoning skills
- use digital technology to develop numeracy skills and understanding."

*Literacy and Numeracy Strategy (2011-2020): Interim Review 2011- 2016;
New Targets 2017-2020 (page 12)*

In our whole school approach to Numeracy, we aim to:

1. Raise the profile of Numeracy within the school
2. Raise standards of Numeracy
3. Make Numeracy teaching an overt part of every curriculum area

In order to support the whole school approach to Numeracy, subject departments will:

- make links between other subjects and Mathematics where possible in our teaching

- note the opportunities for Numeracy within our schemes of work
- support the whole school approaches to the identified areas of weakness in Numeracy in our students

- contribute to a Numeracy rich environment by creating a positive and attractive environment through the
 - display of graphs
 - display of numbers in our target language
 - display of student work showing Numeracy within our subjects
 - display of high quality examples of Numeracy being applied in our subject area

- encourage the use of estimation skills where appropriate in our teaching, particularly when checking numerical calculations

- use ICT to raise attainment in Numeracy e.g. through the use of spreadsheets

- discourage students from writing down answers only and encourage students to show their numerical working out within the main body of their work

- recognise that there is never only one correct method for problem solving and encourage students to develop their own correct methods where appropriate

- allow and encourage students to 'vocalise' their Maths skills within our subjects - as we recognise that this is a necessary step towards full understanding for many students

- encourage students to use non-calculator methods whenever possible

- encourage students to use the correct language e.g. use the word 'mean' rather than 'average'

If problems with Numeracy are identified within our subjects then the Numeracy Link person will be informed and appropriate measures to address the weaknesses that are suggested will be implemented.

Monitoring Procedures

- Tracking of the uptake of higher level at Junior and Senior Cycle
- Tracking of examination results
- Regular inclusion of Numeracy on the agenda at subject and whole staff meetings

Date of Ratification by the Board of Management:

Tuesday, 6th March, 2018.