



Scoil Ursula  
Strandhill Road, Sligo  
18979F

School Improvement Plan  
for  
Literacy  
**Update**

Issue date: October, 2015

## OUR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Summary of main strengths as identified in Autumn 2015.

- Scoil Ursula has a conscientious, dedicated, innovative staff open to new ideas and initiatives and focussed on providing the best possible educational opportunities for its pupils.
- Pupils are performing well above the national norm with 59.1% scoring above the 50th percentile rank; and 18.1% of pupils scoring at the 85th percentile rank or above compared with 16% nationally. There is a similar significant differential in the lower percentile brackets with 12% achieving below the 16<sup>th</sup> percentile against a national norm of 16%.
- The school's literacy standard score stands at 103.4 which is well ahead of the national average.
- Children with literacy and language needs are provided with a differentiated programme to enable access to all strands of the curriculum.

Summary of main areas requiring improvement as identified in last SSE:

- Creative Writing
- Penmanship
- Oral Language
- Comprehension
- Punctuation & Grammar

Improvement targets (related to pupils' achievement)

- To increase the school's class-based literacy average standard score from 102.8 by .7 each year over the three-year period to a target of 105 by 2016. (End of Year 2 figure stands at 103.4, which makes the 105 target difficult to attain with a third area of focus in Year 3. The 2016 target is therefore being reset at 104).
- To increase the percentage of pupils achieving above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile from 57.8% by .7% each year over the three-year period to a target of 60% in 2016. (End of Year 2 figure stands at 59.1%, which leaves 0.9% still to make up in Year 3)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To reduce the percentage of pupils achieving below the 16<sup>th</sup> percentile from 13.3% by .4% each year over the three-year period to a target of 12% in 2016. (End of Year 2 figure stands at 12%, which needs to be maintained during Year 3).</li> </ul>
<p>Required actions (related to teaching and learning that will help to achieve the targets)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collection, collation &amp; analysis of Micra-T Data.</li> <li>Writing genres to be implemented at different periods of the school year at teachers' discretion.</li> <li>A uniform handwriting policy to be adopted throughout the school incorporating Jolly Phonics script in the Junior Classes and Write Here in the Middle Classes with appropriate reward-based follow-on in the Senior Classes.</li> <li>Literacy Workshops Programme (LWP) to be expanded to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class in 2013/14 and Guided Reading Workshops to 2nd Class in 2014/15 and 1<sup>st</sup> Class in 2015/16.</li> <li>Teacher modelling of the LWP to relevant teachers.</li> <li>Continuation of Formal Whole School DEAR Time for 10 minutes each day.</li> <li>Continuation of Buddy Reading Programme where Senior Class Teachers 'twin' with Junior Class Teachers for 6 weeks between Christmas &amp; Easter.</li> <li>Comprehension Strategies to be adopted throughout the school according to the Building Bridges of Understanding techniques by Martin Gleeson.</li> <li>Picture Book selection to be purchased to back up the above initiative. Joint Funding from BOM &amp; PA.</li> <li>ICT interventions focussed on Literacy as recommended by the ICT Committee.</li> </ul>
<p>Persons responsible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principal &amp; Staff</li> <li>Board of Management</li> <li>Parents Association</li> </ul>
<p>Timeframe for action</p>	<p>Year 1 2013-2014  Year 2 2014-2015  Year 3 2015-2016  All of the actions will be implemented as specified</p>

	above.
Success criteria / measurable outcomes	Success will be based on the achievement of our targets as set out above and as measured by our Standardised Test Results at the end of each yearly period.
Review dates	June 2014 June 2015 June 2016