

Enniscorthy Vocational College Numeracy Policy



Ratified by Board of Management on 21st November 2013

1. Mission Statement

Enniscorthy Vocational College is committed to raising the standards of numeracy of all its students by improving their ability to use numeracy skills effectively in all areas of the curriculum and in developing the skills necessary to cope confidently with the demands of further education, employment and adult life.

2. Current definition of numeracy

Numeracy is a proficiency that involves confidence and competence with numbers and measures. It is more than an ability to do basic arithmetic. It requires understanding of the number system, a repertoire of mathematical techniques and an inclination and ability to solve quantitative or spatial problems in a range of contexts. Numeracy also demands understanding of the ways in which data are gathered by counting and measuring, and by presentation in graphs, diagrams, charts and tables.

3. Aims of the school numeracy policy

- To promote consistency of practice in methodology, vocabulary, use of resources etc.
- To encourage interdepartmental collaboration.
- To promote teaching that is ;
 - Informed by clear and progressive objectives
 - Direct and explicit
 - Interactive
 - Motivating
 - Varied in style
 - Well pitched to student needs
 - Inclusive
- To promote learning that is:
 - Active
 - Creative
 - Reflective
 - Independent
 - Linked to personal/ group targets

- To ensure effective and informed planning and assessment procedures
- To establish regular monitoring, evaluation and review procedures.

4. Whole school approach

- Exploration of the concept of numeracy across the curriculum through in-service training has been initiated in the school and is on-going.
- A numeracy committee is in place including the Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, Learning Support Coordinator, JCSP Librarian and interested members of staff.
- Whole school cross-curricular initiatives are planned throughout the year, including
 - placing visual triggers in classrooms/practical rooms by displaying numerical keywords in all subject classrooms and
 - Increasing numeracy awareness by incorporating “Maths Week” into the school calendar. The activities during the week include
 - an Art/Photo competition; the finalist’s entries are displayed in the staffroom and judged by all staff members,
 - a guessing competition for all students and staff which Transition Year coordinate,
 - a list of websites with puzzles is emailed to staff to include in their classes, at their own discretion during the week.
 - suggestions for new ideas for 2013-2014:
 - a numeracy notice board to display fun facts, puzzles and subject-specific numeracy posters
 - signposts around the school highlighting distances from place to place and which aligns with the school map
 - Displaying items sold in the canteen in different currencies.
- Inclusion of numeracy section in all subject plans is recommended to staff.

5. Baseline Data

- Data from standardised testing carried out prior to school entry is available from the guidance counselor/learning support department and provides information on the numeracy level of all incoming 1st year students.
- Additional data is gathered from in-school testing of year 1st year students in September using standardised tests.
- Diagnostic testing on Special Needs students is also carried out in September again using standardised tests.
- NEPS assessments provide supplementary information.
- Re-testing is performed in January.
- Maths teachers will execute the tests and time will be allocated (Croke Park hours) for corrections from 2013-2014.
- This standardized testing will be expanded to 2nd years in 2013-14 and to 3rd years 2014-15.
- Baseline data, targets and actions to be included in the school Deis plan.

6. Methodologies

Following on the results obtained from the range of standardised tests carried out appropriate learning support strategies may be adopted e.g.

- Team teaching
- One to one
- Small groups
- Whole class teaching

7. JCSP

A wide range of JCSP numeracy resource materials are available from the Library for teacher use to facilitate teaching and learning in the classroom particularly with special needs students. In addition various numeracy initiatives may be implemented during the school year. These may vary from year to year.

8. Evaluation

The policy will be regularly monitored and reviewed through

- School planning - DEIS
- Retesting using standardised tests.

