**New Cross College Literacy Policy 2017-18**

*“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 Strategy, 2011-2020.*

**Vision / Rationale**

In conjunction with our Mission Statement, our vision for **literacy** is to have high expectations for our students with regards to their literacy skills, to ensure that they can actively engage as citizens. This vision pertains to all of our students. We will endeavour to ensure that our students can:

* actively and fluently read a variety of texts (fiction, non-fiction, digital media, visual texts)
* 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
* articulate their thoughts and emotions fluently and confidently
* write effectively in a variety of genres
* listen, interpret, understand, make judgements and respond to what they hear
* develop confidence in utilising situations that will enhance their literacy development, e.g. library, citizen’s advice centres, after-school and third level courses

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

**A Literacy Core Team** has been established as part of our DEIS Core Team 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 our DEIS literacy plan, as outlined in our overall DEIS plan for the year 2017-18. The use of our JCSP library and the JCSP programme are also essential resources to be utilised by all members of the school, to ensure that every student has access to the library and an understanding of their JCSP statements as tools of literacy development.

**Targets:** In line with the National Strategy for Literacy and Numeracy, our targets will aim:

* to raise public 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 among children and young people and to encourage our students to use the JSCP library as a central area for reading, listening and active speaking activities
* to set and monitor our DEIS targets for literacy
* to evaluate teaching and learning in literacy across all subject areas

**Whole School Strategies / Initiatives**

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

* *teacher CPD (including literacy link seminars, digital literacy training, etc.)*
* *comprehension strategies for all texts*
* *explicit instruction models*
* *formative assessment (peer assessment, continuous assessment, projects, portfolios, etc.)*
* *use of graphic organisers*
* *use of JCSP statements and initiatives to promote literacy development*

*Whole school initiatives such as DEAR, Keywords, Make a Book, Book in a Bag, Literacy-Rich classrooms, Word of the Week, World Book Day, etc. will continue on a regular basis, involving cross-curricular linkage, with regular reviewing of initiatives. Subject teachers will liaise with both the JCSP programme and the school library with regard to ongoing initiatives and actions to meet our DEIS targets.*

**Recommendations for further staff discussion this year in the area of literacy improvement:**

* *grading of exam papers and giving of feedback*
* *general presentation of work, self / peer assessment*
* *homework / homework policy*

**Review date: September 2018**

**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.