



LARGY COLLEGE

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF

CAVAN AND MONAGHAN EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA AN CHABHÁIN AGUS MHUINEACHÁIN



Literacy Policy

(This policy should be read in conjunction with Largy College's DEIS Plan)

"Literacy includes the ability to use and understand spoken language, print, writing and digital media."

1. INTRODUCTION

Every young person needs to be literate. We use the basic skills of literacy in almost every part of our lives, every day: when we communicate with each other ó in traditional written forms or through the web ó when we follow signs and instructions, when we are at our work or enjoying leisure time, when we try to make sense of the mass of information and data available through the media, and when we are managing our lives.

Traditionally we have thought about literacy as the skills of reading and writing; but today our understanding of literacy encompasses much more than that. Literacy includes the capacity to read, understand and critically appreciate various forms of communication including spoken language, print, broadcast media, and digital media.

Without the skill of literacy, a young person or adult is cut off from full participation in many aspects of life: they cannot perform basic tasks, such as reading or sending an email; advertisements and notices are meaningless to them; they cannot jot down a shopping list or understand a bill that comes in the post; and they are cut off from participating in and contributing to many aspects of the society and culture in which they live.

2. RELATION TO MISSION STATEMENT

õIn Largy College all students and staff are cherished in an environment where Christian values of mutual respect, tolerance, honesty and humility are nurtured. We provide the widest range of educational experiences and opportunities to enable all our students develop their individual multiple talents, to realise their full potential and be prepared to meet the many challenges they will encounter in later life as mature, confident, responsible participants in society.ö (Largy College Mission Statement)

All staff at Largy College share responsibility for the teaching of literacy across the curriculum. Crucially, we believe that literate students will ultimately emerge as confident and articulate communicators, fully prepared when they leave Largy College to further their academic studies or enter the world of work.

Largy College is committed to raising the literacy standards of all students. Developing literacy skills will impact positively on students' self esteem, allowing them to learn independently and to cope better with the demands of life in school and as an adult.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY

1. To adopt a whole-school approach to literacy across the curriculum. In terms of Literacy, teachers will lead by example, as well as in other key areas.
2. To encourage and enable all students to reach their potential in the key literacy skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening.
3. To support the development of literacy skills throughout the curriculum. (See DEIS plan)
4. To raise staff awareness of key literacy strategies.

5. To encourage all staff to place an emphasis on the importance of Literacy development in their subject areas.
6. To support the development of literacy through the deployment of a range of resources in the school.
7. To establish procedures for monitoring literacy across the curriculum.
8. To encourage a literary rich school environment where literary stimulation is displayed, keywords are promoted and examples of students' work are showcased.

Objectives: Through the implementation of this policy we in Largy College strive to have students:

- Read and write with confidence, fluency and understanding
- Use their skills in speaking and listening to explore, articulate and extend their understanding of texts
- Understand the sound and spelling system and use this to read and spell accurately
- Have an interest in words, their usage and meanings and an extensive vocabulary used appropriately for different purposes
- Plan, draft, revise and edit their own writing from notes to a finished form
- Read and write with enjoyment and discrimination
- Through reading and writing develop their powers of imagination, critical awareness and thinking
- Be able to research independently and make notes from a variety of sources, including the internet
- Use appropriate reading strategies to extract particular information, e.g. highlighting, scanning
- Use talk to develop thinking about complex issues and ideas
- Be able to write cohesively in an increasingly sophisticated style, using varied punctuation, sentence structures, paragraphs and technical devices
- Adapt their writing to suit audience and purpose
- Be confident users of subject specific vocabulary and correct spellings

4. SOME POSSIBLE STRATEGIES

- Subject Departments agree on core vocabulary for display
- Key Words used in subject classes
- Matching up technical words to definitions
- Reading for Fun Programme
- Oracy development (Debating etc)
- Cloze testing
- Drop Everything and Read Strategy
- Creating a book review folder
- One Book, One County ó in conjunction with Clones Library
- Frequent use of school Library

6. LITERACY LINK PERSON ó Mr. Pádraig Ó Mórdha

Literacy Targets

Whole School Approach for Largy College

1. 100% of teaching staff will, by January 2014, actively use key words, a minimum of five, to progress learning. Key words will be clearly displayed in each classroom. These key words should be updated regularly.
2. Foster a positive reading experience in 1st Year by creating a specific time in the weekly timetable where reading for fun takes priority.
3. Encourage every student in 1st Year to read a minimum of FIVE books, other than text books, from September 2013 to May 2014.

Strategies for the implementation of the above targets include:

- Reading for Fun
- "One book a class" County-wide, Library Initiative
- Creating a book review folder
- Drop Everything and Read
- Frequent use of School Library
- "Book Box" or "Mini Library" in every classroom

Adopted by the Board of Management

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: **11th February 2014**

Signed: _____
School Principal

Date: **11th February 2014**

Review Date: **February 2017**