

Summary of Numeracy School Self-Evaluation Report

1. Introduction

Douglas Community School is an urban all boys Post-Primary school, under the patronage of the Bishop of Cork managed by a Board of Management representative of our trustees, the City of Cork VEC, Parents and Staff. For more information on how we intend to Improve our students' learning please see our School Improvement Plan which is available on www.dcscork.ie.

1.1 The Focus of the Evaluation

A school self evaluation of teaching and learning in Douglas Community School was undertaken during the last term of the 2013/14 academic year and then repeated during the last term of 2014/15. Numeracy and how the improvement of mental arithmetic skills could support teaching and learning in a cross curricular mode were evaluated and reviewed.

This report summarises the strengths that were identified and the areas that have been prioritised for improvement.

2. Summary of school self evaluation findings

A questionnaire based upon students' attitudes to mental arithmetic was compiled by a cohort of Junior school students. The results were analysed using Google Drive and Google Forms focusing on students' attitudes to Numeracy, & mental arithmetic in particular, and engagement with learning.

2.1 The self evaluation highlighted that strengths exist in a student teacher rapport and that a large percentage of students who identified that mental arithmetic was an issue for them expressed a willingness to be led by the staff in activities that will increase competence & confidence in this area. The self evaluation also highlighted that there is a willingness to embrace and share good practice amongst staff, and that excellent interdepartmental co-operation exists.

2.2 We have decided to prioritise increasing the percentage of students using mental arithmetic daily by focusing on the development of numeracy skills, in particular mental calculation skills, in all subject areas.