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| St. Colman’s School Improvement Plan- Numeracy (Problem Solving) |
| Summary of main Strengths | * All teachers reported that equal emphasis is placed on the process of problem solving as well as finding the answer.
* All teachers actively model the language to be used.
* 78% of the focus group said that they liked Mathematics.
* 67% liked solving maths problems and found talking over maths problems with a friend or group helps with problem solving
* 29% scored in the upper levels C and D.
* Most pupils had their copies laid out well.
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| Summary of main areas requiring improvement. | * 50% of teachers indicated that there was an over-reliance on pupil text books.
* 53% were unsure or did not take time to estimate what the answer to a problem was before they did the problem.
* 52% of children reported that if they were given a problem that is different from the examples in their book, they were not sure or couldn’t figure it out themselves.
* Generally, pupils do not use words to explain their solutions.
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| Improvement Targets | * To increase the percentage of pupils scoring in the upper levels of C & D, on the Problem solving Rubric from 29% to 35% over a 3 year period.
* To decrease the number of teachers reporting an over-reliance on the textbook from 50% to 40 % over 3 years.
* To increase the percentage of pupils, from the focused group, verbalising how a result was found from 16% to 30% over a 3 year period.
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| Required actions | * PDST advisors will provide in service to all staff during Croke Park time.
* 2 members of staff will complete 3 day in-service based on SSE Numeracy.
* Gather Maths resources and store extra supplies in the prefab.
* Highlight all available resources in each mainsteam class, in the school maths policy.
* Download extra materials from recommended websites and encourage all staff to share their findings by placing them in a folder in the staff room.
* Each mainstream teacher will provide a 10 minute mental maths/ problem solving lesson during their maths classes. Alternatively, each mainstream teacher will allocated one class per week to problem solving.
* Highlight extra resources on the school server regarding problem solving.
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| Persons responsible | All staff members involved in the teaching of Mathematics. The Principal, Ms. Joyce.All SNA staff involved in assisting pupils in Mathematics. |
| Timeframe for action | September 2014 – June 2017 |
| Success criteria | Sigma T results, Teacher observations, Re-testing of the focus group |
| Review dates | Annually, in June 2015  |