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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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| 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 |