

CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT AND KEY SKILLS

Stories from classroom practice

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An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curaclaim agus Measúnachta
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment



What we in St. Brigid's College have been doing



- 2005 – NCCA network schools project
- 2007 – 2008: Staff led in-service
- 2008 – 2009: The whole school approach: Key Skills peer mentoring (buddy system)
- 2009-to date: The learning to learn initiative
- 2010-2011: Incorporating Key Skills into school subject plans
- 2011-2012: Whole school approach to agreed teaching strategies
- 2012-2013: Whole school approach to agreed teaching strategies
- 2013-2014: Literacy focus/assessment of Key Skills in teaching and learning
- 2014-2015: Numeracy focus/assessment of Key Skills in teaching and learning

Assessment



- **What we used to do :**

- Classroom end of chapter/topic assessment (set by teacher)
- Spelling tests
- End of term common assessments

- **What we do now:**

- Assessment and homework policy
- Assessment For Learning
- Peer assessment
- Variety of assessments- taking into consideration student's learning styles
- Self assessment/reflection
- Assessment Of Learning
- Teaching and learning is on the agenda
- Alignment of the assessment of skills and learning



Examples of assessment of Key Skills

- **Transition Year Environmental Studies** :Halloween repurposed decoration and posters
- **Mini Company** : Dragon's Den, good v bad interview techniques
- **S.P.H.E:** 1st year Anti-bullying day
- **Irish:** Soap opera script writing and acting
- **French:** Students setting their own assessment
- **Science:** Peer teaching of experiments
- **Languages:** Drafting and redrafting of pieces
- **C.S.P.E:** Human rights poster collage
- **Transition Year** : New self reflection tasks
- **Whole School Approach:** Scaling, question wall, effort and commitment reports, learning to learn initiative, Life skills programme

Halloween Repurposed Decorations



In the classroom:



- Language of Key Skills becomes common place
- Key Skills status acknowledged throughout lesson
- Key Skills are informing Assessment
- Key Skills given value in Assessment

How our teaching is evolving



- Assessment For Learning rather than Assessment of Learning
- Summative and formative assessment playing key roles
- « Education must be transformed to make thinking rather than knowledge its guiding priority » Walter Lipman 1980
- Criteria for success outlined.....shared focus on attainment
- Teachers becoming reflective practitioners
- Subject plan focus on assessment/Key Skills
- Skills rich teaching/assessment
- Inspection reports (transition year/science inspection)

The impact on students



- Assessment variety
- Independence
- Personal responsibility
- Shared responsibility
- Reflection/skills of metacognition
- More aware of strengths and areas for development
- Language and ideas of Key Skills
- Skills for life/foundation for third level
- Developing confidence
- Awareness of learning styles
- Good skills rich assessment

Discussion