



Professional
Development
Service for Teachers

An tSeirbhís
um Fhorbairt
Ghairmiúil
do Mhúinteoirí

The Role of the Link Teacher

The provision of two-day seminars for Link Teachers commencing with Day 1 in this term is one which will support schools in the enhancement of in-school expertise in relation to the development of literacy/ numeracy. Following the seminar it is **not** intended that the role of the Link Teacher be prescriptive as the various responsibilities associated with the role will vary from school to school. Essentially, it is expected that the key messages and professional learning provided on the day of the link teacher seminar be disseminated to all staff. The link teacher will need the support of the school principal in this regard towards ensuring a whole school approach. **Responsibilities of the Link Teacher will be agreed with the school principal who has ultimate responsibility for all teaching and learning activity.** To this end the Link Teacher may facilitate the undertaking of the duties such as the following suggested below:

- promoting literacy/numeracy in accordance to the needs of the school
- linking and working with teachers in relation to the teaching and learning of literacy/numeracy
- supporting the school self-evaluation process with regard to literacy/numeracy. This does not mean that they are solely responsible for leading the SSE process with regard to literacy/numeracy
- setting up and leading a literacy/numeracy core team where feasible and appropriate
- attending relevant courses /engaging in continuing professional development and reporting back to staff
- arranging for a range staff continuing professional development opportunities
- facilitating the dissemination of relevant information and updates to staff (policy initiatives, research)
- accessing and organising resources
- engaging parents and the wider community in literacy/numeracy activities
- co-ordinating classroom and school based literacy/numeracy initiatives (Write a book, Lift-off to Literacy, First Steps, Ready Set Go Maths, Maths Week etc)
- promotion the use of literacy/numeracy in everyday life
- facilitating the meaningful integration of literacy /numeracy across the curriculum (Primary) and across all subject departments (Post-primary)

Whilst acknowledging that the selection of the Link Teacher is a matter for the Principal some of the following qualities could be considered when nominating a member of staff as the Link Teacher:





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- has a keen interest in and be committed to the promotion of literacy/numeracy in the school
- has a proven ability to work in collaboration with Principal and other staff
- has proven leadership ability in terms of motivating staff and facilitating the change process
- has an understanding of the school self-evaluation process and its role with regard to school improvement
- has excellent communication skills

In relation to nomination Post-Primary Link Teachers for the **Link Teacher (Numeracy)** it is preferable that the nominees are experienced **teachers of Mathematics**. For the **Link Teacher (Literacy)** it is encouraged to nominate teachers from subject departments other than English/Gaeilge. Finally, it is expected that the **Link Teacher at primary and post-primary, will be a key contact between the school and PDST with regards to literacy and numeracy.**

