

# Belfast Model School for Girls

*Achievement for All*



## Mathematics Department Literacy policy

**Agreed by Board of Governors:**

**To be reviewed:**

### **Rationale**

As teachers of Mathematics we should be aware of the key role of language in learning. Within our programmes of study we need to encourage the development of all four modes of language: talking, listening, reading and writing.

Literacy skills are essential in today's world of information and communication technology. Success in adult life depends as much upon literacy skills as numeracy.

Literacy matters to everyone in a rapidly changing world where the key to employment is the possession of high literacy and numeracy skills.

The foundation of literacy education should be provided by the English department. It's development and improvement however needs a whole school approach. Every pupil is entitled to have access to literacy beyond basic language skills.

### **Purposes**

The teaching of literacy within the Girls Model School should enable pupils to develop literacy skills and be able to use them with confidence in dealing with other subject disciplines within the school and the practical demands of everyday life.

### **Pupils should be able to**

use all four modes of language in doing their mathematical tasks

### **Guidelines**

The school is part of the NI Literacy Strategy. The areas we have addressed and are continuing to develop are:

#### **Talking**

- Grouped or paired activities within the scheme of work.
- Opportunity for talking and thinking, oral presentation and reporting back given within the lesson.
- Time of teacher exposition should be varied within the lesson.
- More subject talk using topic words that they are using and their meaning
- The language of IT should be explained and developed.
- The use of games would encourage mathematical talk as well as giving pupils the experience of working in teams and groups.
- The classroom should be arranged to make it more conducive to classroom talk.

## **Listening**

- Use of mental arithmetic tests to develop listening skills.
- Teachers should be aware of the need to develop listening skills e.g. clear instructions given as to the location of resources.
- Good classroom organisation is required to facilitate listening.
- Use of games and puzzles to develop listening skills.

## **Reading**

- New textbooks and in-house assessments are well presented, visually appealing and are of an appropriate reading age.
- Displays in the classrooms of 'Maths in the Media' and the 'Number in the News'.
- Reading to gain information e.g. databases.
- Strategies for solving problems. Pupils should be taught how to read problems in order to sort and organise information

## **Writing**

- Spelling of mathematical words.
- Pupils should be taught to use an appropriate style when recording and analysing investigative work.
- In all lessons teachers should give attention to the quality of language and take opportunities to reinforce good practice on the use of language.

***These policy Guidelines are translated into action through other policies and procedures, for example:***

*The Strategic Development Plan*

*Teaching and Learning Policies*

*Policy for Entry into Post 16 Courses*

*Numeracy Policy*

*Assessment and Reporting Policies*

*Examinations Policy*

*Special Needs Policy*