



## Power Hour Intervention, Scoil Bhríde



'Power-Hour' is an intensive early intervention programme of reading and writing to raise literacy levels. It gives pupils abundant opportunities to read books at their own level of competency. It gradually lifts the complexity of what the pupils can do in both reading and writing by equipping them with the necessary problem-solving skills.

It is implemented in blocks of 6/8 weeks in the Junior and Middle classes. Diverse activities are essential for extending literacy processing power. Over the course of one hour, pupils engage in a number of 'work stations' where activities are tailor-made to their own level of competency. These activities will gradually increase in complexity as the pupil's literacy levels increase.

Children are divided up into small groups. There are 4 stations and children spend 10 minutes at each. By the end of the hour, they will have visited each activity and will take home their "new read" book for homework.

### **Station 1: Familiar Reading**

Pupils read previously seen PM+ Readers.

*Purpose: Development of enjoyment, fluency, comprehension and speed.*

### **Station 2: New Reading**

Children will explore and then take home a new reader each day. This challenges the pupils to discover new ways to go beyond their current operating ability and lift their literacy processing.

*Purpose: Pupils learn to use strategic activities to read new texts.*



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### Station 3: Phonics

Children are supported to improve their abilities in blending and segmenting words (to make and break words) through lots of games and activities.

*Purpose: To show children how words work, so that they can make a fast visual analysis of their reading.*

### Station 4: Writing

Pupils write sentences using words that they encounter in their readers and the high frequency words that they are studying.

*"Power Hour" is a fantastic literacy initiative. The school has invested thousands of euro and lots of "teacher power" into the programme. The programme uses specially graded 'PM+' readers which were purchased partly through funds raised through various initiatives run by The Parents Association and the school. This could not be possible without the support of parents; for this we thank you most sincerely and look forward to seeing the children of Straffan NS reaping the rewards!*

Yours Sincerely,

"The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you'll go."  
-Dr. Seuss