

DEIS

Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools

Parent Information Guide

November 2024

DEIS stands for Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools. It is a national programme aimed at addressing the educational needs of all young people. Coláiste Chiaráin is part of the DEIS programme.

The DEIS Plan 2017 sets out the Department's vision for education to more fully become a proven pathway to better opportunities and to give tailored support to schools. The plan sets out goals to be achieved in terms of improved outcomes for students.

Our DEIS Plan 2024–2027 is our three-year School Improvement Plan. It will be monitored each year and evaluated at the end of the three years.

Our DEIS Plan addresses the current needs of our school and focuses on the following eight themes:

Attendance

Retention

Transitions (formerly Progression)

Attainment

Literacy

Numeracy

Partnership with Parents

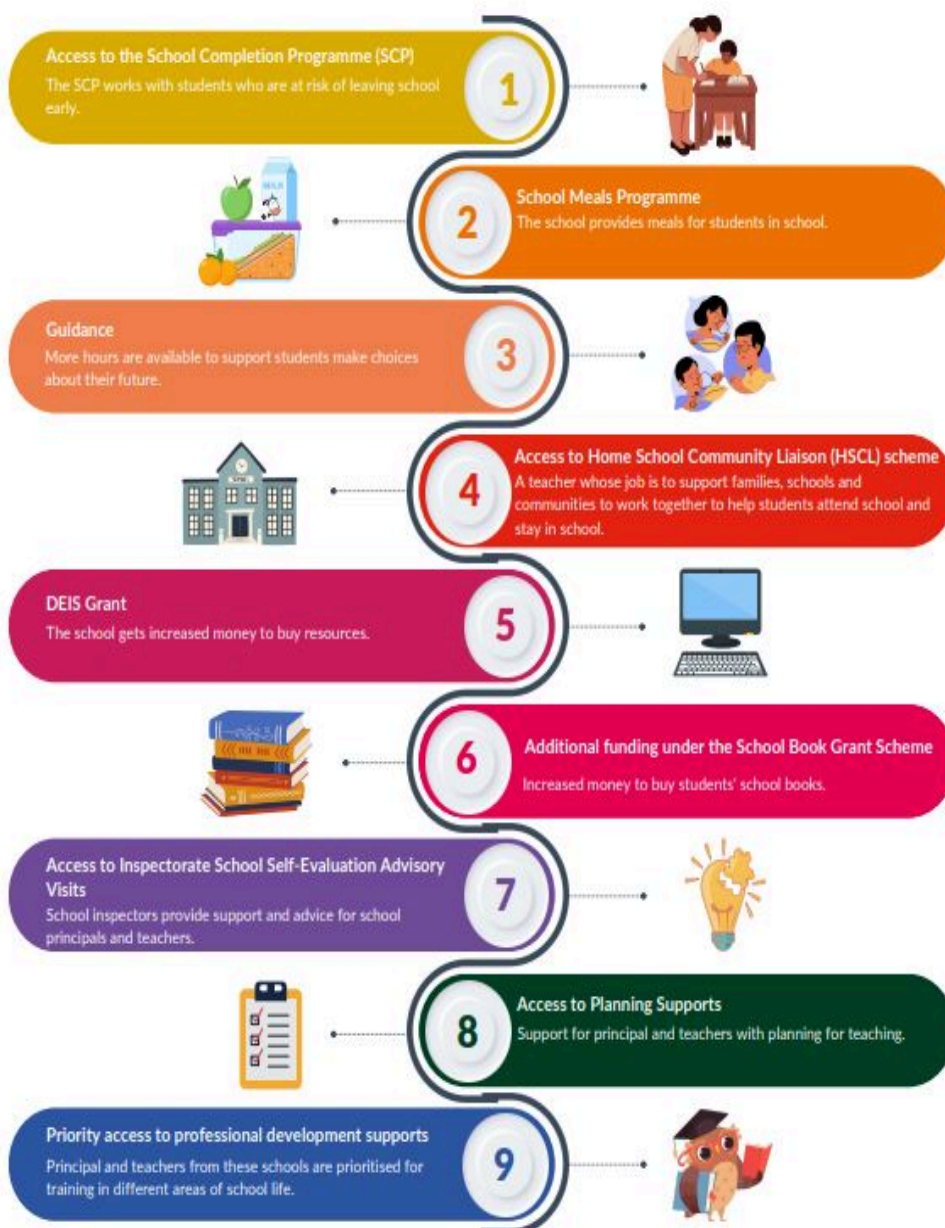
Partnership with Others

The areas of Leadership, Continuous Professional Development (CPD), and wellbeing are threaded through the main eight themes.

The Department of Education has published information for parents and guardians of students in DEIS schools. You can access it here.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/policy-information/deis-delivering-equality-of-opportunity-in-schools>

Supports for DEIS Post-primary schools



The 2023/2024 academic year was spent gathering data from all stakeholders and using that information to devise a plan with targets and actions that we felt would best meet the needs of our students. All teachers are part of one of the planning groups for each of the eight themes of DEIS, which are explained separately below. Groups meet throughout the year to monitor and review actions and to determine whether we are on course to reach our targets.

The information below is a broad overview of the targets for each theme and a summary of the main new actions.

Theme 1: Literacy

Literacy includes the capacity to read, understand, and critically appreciate various forms of communication, including spoken language, printed text, broadcast media, and digital media.

Our actions in this section aim to improve students' vocabulary and reading comprehension skills. We aim to achieve this by reading high-quality academic texts, modelling reading comprehension strategies, and conducting word explorations with students to help them understand key vocabulary. First Years will be encouraged to always have their library book in their bag and to read not only during library class but also in supervised study. Literacy can be supported at home by encouraging time spent reading for pleasure, helping with revision of new words encountered in class, and reading aloud difficult sections of text so your child can hear them being read accurately.

Theme 2: Numeracy

Numeracy encompasses the ability to use mathematical understanding and skills to solve problems and to meet the demands of day-to-day living in complex social settings.

Our actions in this section aim to improve students' problem-solving and measurement skills.

This can be supported at home through real-life numeracy moments such as weighing ingredients and measuring elements of the environment where the opportunity arises. Showing students household bills and reading them together can also help.

Theme 3: Attendance

Attendance is fundamental to students' progress and attainment in school.

To support student attendance, please ensure that students are on time for school and attend a full day.

Theme 4: Retention

The theme of retention focuses on the importance of keeping children in school, identifying those at risk of early leaving, and taking action to reduce or eliminate factors that cause students to drop out.

To support your child in school, home-school communication is key. Please do not hesitate to contact us in a timely manner so we can be of support.

Theme 5: Attainment

Examination attainment focuses on attainment in the certificate examinations and also includes target-setting, strategies, and monitoring of progress with regard to students' outcomes in school-based assessments and examinations.

This can be supported at home by going through the targets your child has set for themselves and discussing how they can achieve them. Helping them to make a realistic study plan, which incorporates some of the study skills they have been learning about, will help with this.

Teachers are aiming to make the learning intentions of the class clear, to provide success criteria for assignments, and to use formative feedback to show students what they can do to improve. Our actions also aim to help students in class by using low-stakes forms of assessment so that students can see for themselves what they know and where the gaps in their learning are. Teachers are using Google Classroom to log classwork and homework so that students can find out what they have missed and know where to go to catch up. All of these actions aim to make the learning environment more supportive for students, while also promoting more independent learning on their part.

This can be supported at home by asking your child about what they are learning, asking them to show their Google Classrooms, and going through any feedback they are struggling with. At all times, students should be encouraged to ask their teachers for clarity if they have not understood something.

Theme 6: Transitions

Transitions is very closely linked to attendance and retention. It puts a spotlight on the key moves from one stage of education to the next: from primary to post-primary, from Junior Cycle to Senior Cycle, and from post-primary to continuing education and the world of work.

Our actions in these four sections (Themes 3–6) aim to reduce overall absenteeism throughout the school so that students can do better in exams and transition into each stage of their education more easily. Teachers have found that regular absenteeism has a snowball effect on students, where they often struggle to catch up on what they have missed and then begin to feel overwhelmed. This, in turn, negatively affects how well they do in their subjects. In the most severe cases, this can lead to more frequent absenteeism and a risk of leaving school. Often, students struggle most when transitioning to a new stage of their education, for example, First Years entering second level, Fifth Years entering Senior Cycle, and so on.

To help avoid these problems, the school runs a supportive transition programme for incoming First Years and further supports students as they progress through the school.

Other whole-school actions are also being run this year to support these aims and include a selection of lunchtime clubs and activities.

Themes 7 and 8: Partnership with Parents and Others

The DEIS action plan supports schools to develop partnerships with parents and with the community. Our actions in this section aim to increase the number of interactions parents have with the school and to improve communication between school and home. Teachers will aim to make further use of VShare as a means of communication with parents. The Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) service is an invaluable link between home and school.

The main Department resources relevant here are the DEIS overview and DEIS Plan 2017.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/policy-information/deis-delivering-equality-of-opportunity-in-schools>

CCO DEIS PLAN 2024-2027

TARGETS

LITERACY

1. To improve reading and writing skills
2. To encourage reading for fun
3. To promote our library

NUMERACY

1. More opportunities to use numeracy skills across all subjects
2. Focus on achievement in Maths

ATTENDANCE

1. Fewer unexplained absences
2. More students on time for registration

ATTAINMENT

1. Encourage Higher Level participation
2. Promote After-School Study
3. Achieve at both JC and LC level

RETENTION

1. Reduce number of students transferring out of school
2. Encourage further education for those who leave

TRANSITIONS

1. Increase sense of belonging
2. Consolidate transition from JC to SC
3. Support progression to further education

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

1. Increased PTM attendance for exam years
2. Focus on communication channels

PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS

1. Maintain community partnerships
2. Grow business partners