

Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS)



# Presentation Secondary School Ballyphehane

The DEIS plan is the whole school plan for Presentation Ballyphehane which will be continually monitored over a three year period stemming from 2022 - 2025.

## **What does it provide for Presentation Ballyphehane?**

The DEIS Plan sets out the Department of Education's vision for education to become a proven pathway to better opportunities for those in communities at risk of disadvantage and social exclusion. There is 110 million euro of funding directed to DEIS at a national level, therefore it is a huge advantage to a school community to have DEIS status.

In Presentation Ballyphehane we have the following resources linked to our DEIS status:

- A Home School Community Liaison
- School Completion Officer
- Leaving Cert Applied
- National Educational Psychological Services provision
- School books grant scheme
- School Meals
- PDST Supports.

## **What is DEIS?**

Each DEIS plan is specific to each DEIS school but should contain the following seven key areas:

1. Literacy
2. Numeracy
3. Attendance
4. Retention
5. Attainment
6. Transitions
7. Partnership with Parents & Partnership with others.

## **What has the DEIS plan achieved nationally?**

- Levels of Literacy & Numeracy have increased.
- Retention rates have improved.
- More effective school planning is taking place.
- The gap has closed but not enough.
- Attendance (coming into school) has not improved.
- We want to improve learner experiences and in particular vulnerable groups.

## DEIS Planning

Planning for DEIS within the school involves a six-step process, as outlined below.

### DEIS Planning



### Targets:

Staff in Presentation Ballyphehane have gathered baseline data to generate relative and SMART targets for our DEIS plan 2022 - 2025. The following is the outline of targets we aim to achieve.

Area	Target
Retention	As a school, we are deeply committed to supporting our students in achieving their academic and personal goals. We recognise that every student is unique and faces their own set of challenges, which is why we strive to provide a personalised and supportive

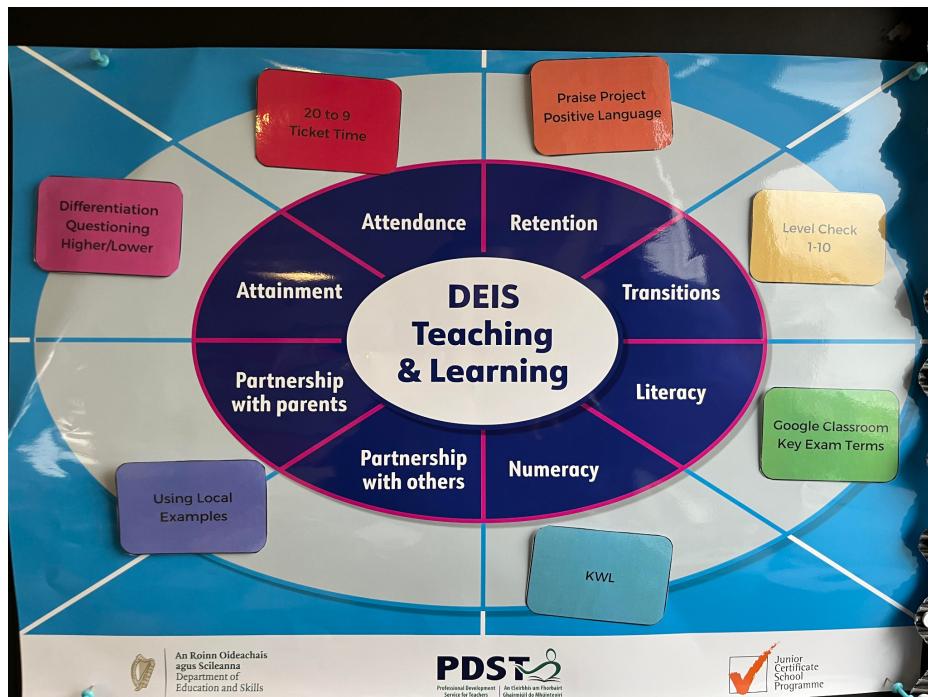
	learning environment that meets each student's individual needs. We believe that all students have the potential to succeed and we are dedicated to providing the resources, support, and guidance they need to reach their full potential. Whether it's through high-quality instruction, academic and personal counselling, extracurricular activities, or community partnerships (UCC/MTU), we are committed to helping our students achieve their milestones in education and prepare for a successful future beyond our school.
Partnership with parents & others	Partnership with parents and other stakeholders is crucial for the success of any educational institution. The involvement of parents/guardians in their child's education can have a significant impact on their academic performance and overall well-being. It is essential to establish regular communication channels with parents/guardians and involve them in decision-making processes regarding their child's education. Collaboration with community organisations, businesses, and other stakeholders can provide valuable resources and opportunities for students. Building relationships with primary schools and apprenticeship providers can help prepare students for the next phase of their education or career. The participation of parents/guardians in Parents Association, attending Parent-Teacher Meetings, and Parents Plus courses can strengthen the partnership between the school and the home. Engaging with parents/guardians and other stakeholders can lead to a more inclusive, supportive, and successful learning environment for all students.
Transitions	Transitions within school can be challenging for students, Presentation Ballyphehane continues to take steps to support students through these transitions. For first-year students, we provide a welcoming environment and support through peer mentoring (Cara) and study skills workshops. For students entering transition year, we provide guidance and work experience opportunities to help them explore career options. For EAL students, we provide language support and additional academic support to help students feel included in their new school community. To help students transition to college, we offer a suite of guidance supports including assessments, guest speakers, past pupil role models and support with the college application process. These efforts can help students feel supported and prepared for their academic journey.
Numeracy	The goal of numeracy education in Presentation Ballyphehane is to help students develop strong foundational skills in mathematics

	<p>and problem solving that they can apply across various subject areas and in their daily lives. To achieve this, we aim to increase the number of students who can see the connection between numeracy and other subjects, such as science, and who are confident in solving problems. Additionally, we aim to cultivate a positive attitude towards STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering &amp; Maths) subjects and careers, including increasing the number of students who really like STEM. Finally, to endeavour to improve basic maths competency skills, such as number theory, language, area, and patterns, among those who need additional support in these areas. The goal is to help all students develop a strong foundation in numeracy that will serve them well in their future studies and careers.</p>
Literacy	<p>To improve oral literacy skills in Presentation Ballyphehane we plan to incorporate activities that encourage speaking aloud, such as group discussions, debates, and presentations. Providing opportunities for students to practise their speaking skills in a safe and supportive environment can help boost their confidence. For students who lack confidence in speaking, targeted interventions such as one-on-one sessions or small group activities are implemented. It is our aim to integrate exam-focused language practice into the curriculum, such as targeted vocabulary building activities and exam-style reading comprehension exercises. Additionally, providing EAL (English as an Additional Language) support based on CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference) benchmarks can help ensure that our students with English as an additional language are progressing in their language development.</p>
Attainment	<p>Improving academic attainment is crucial for ensuring students' success in Presentation Ballyphehane and beyond. We must set specific targets to enhance students' learning outcomes and ensure they meet their potential. These targets may include increasing the percentage of students achieving higher grades, reducing the percentage of those achieving lower grades, and ensuring that students are prepared for the challenges of further education and the workforce. Achieving these goals can boost students' confidence, improve their job prospects, and lead to better outcomes for the school as a whole. Overall, improving academic attainment is vital for fostering a culture of success and ensuring that students have the best possible chance to thrive.</p>
Attendance	<p>To achieve the attendance goals set by Presentation Ballyphehane, it will require a comprehensive approach to tackle underlying issues and encourage students to attend regularly. Strategies</p>

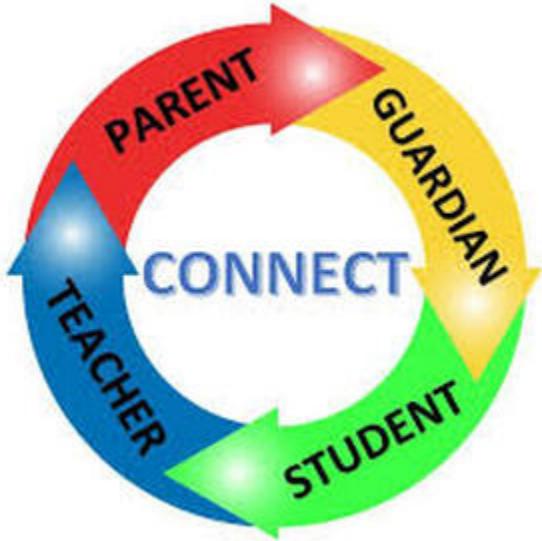
include communication with students, teachers and parents/guardians to increase awareness of the importance of attendance, incentives for good attendance, and developing a supportive school environment. Addressing any issues that may affect attendance, such as transportation or health issues, and providing targeted support for students who are struggling may also help to improve attendance rates. Collaborating with families and communities to address cultural and social factors that may impact attendance for students from minority groups is also essential. By working together, the school can improve attendance rates, benefiting students' academic and social outcomes.

## Actions for Presentation Ballyphehane Secondary School:

A number of targets for improvement have been identified, as well as some classroom based actions, that form part of our overall DEIS plan in Presentation Ballyphehane. These posters are displayed in each classroom in our school.



### Parents & Guardians supporting DEIS



DEIS theme	Theme definition	How parents/guardian can get involved and support
<b>Attendance</b>	<i>Attendance is fundamental to students' progress and attainment in school. When dealing with this theme, schools look at patterns of full day absences, part day absences, late arrival at school and the rate of suspensions.</i>	<p>1: Parents/Guardians should encourage students to attend school every day, have alarms set, lunch packed, check homework journals and prepare for the week ahead.</p> <p>2: Parents/Guardians should highlight and reinforce the importance of punctuality and getting into school on time each morning.</p> <p>3. Parents/Guardians check attendance on VSware App</p>

		4. Contact school for support if attendance is an issue.
<b>Literacy</b>	<i>Literacy includes the capacity to read, understand and critically appreciate various forms of communication including spoken language, printed text, broadcast media &amp; digital media.</i>	<p>1. Model good communication skills by listening actively and speaking clearly and respectfully to your child. Take time to have meaningful conversations with them about their interests and experiences.</p> <p>2. Make sure your child has access to a wide range of reading materials, including books, magazines, and online resources. Encourage them to read for pleasure and to explore topics that interest them.</p> <p>3. Help your child develop critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions and encouraging them to think deeply about what they read and hear.</p> <p>4. Encourage them to express their ideas and opinions clearly and respectfully.</p>
<b>Partnership with parents &amp; others</b>	<i>The DEIS action plan supports schools to develop partnerships with parents/guardians and the community. Schools are also expected to develop links with other schools and colleges, for example in transfer programmes</i>	1. As a parent, your involvement in your child's education is crucial to their academic success. The DEIS action plan encourages parents/guardians to take an active role in their child's school life, such as

	<p><i>from post primary to third level colleges.</i></p>	<p>establishing partnerships with external organisations e.g community enterprises &amp; Charities.</p> <p>2. attending all parent-teacher meetings. It's also important to maintain communication with the school, especially if your child is unwell or absent.</p> <p>3. Additionally, linking in with the school's HSCL (<a href="mailto:rgleeson@presballyphehane.com">rgleeson@presballyphehane.com</a>) and following the school's social media pages can help you stay up-to-date on school events and activities. Your support and involvement can make a significant impact on your child's academic journey.</p>
<b>Transitions</b>	<p><i>Transitions are 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.</i></p>	<p>1. Have open and regular conversations with your child about how they are adapting to their new school. Listen to their concerns and offer support and encouragement.</p> <p>2. Help your child to think about their future career and education goals. Encourage them to explore different options and interests, and provide guidance and resources to help them make informed decisions.</p>

		<p>3. Stay involved in your child's education and keep in touch with their teachers and school staff. Attend parent-teacher conferences and school events, and offer to volunteer or participate in school activities.</p> <p>4. Support your child's learning and study habits at home, providing a quiet and organised space for them to work, and setting reasonable expectations and routines.</p> <p>5. Encourage your child to get involved in extracurricular activities and community programs, which can help them build social connections and develop new skills and interests.</p>
<b>Numeracy</b>	<p><i>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. It means being able to - estimate, predict and calculate. Identify patterns, trends and relationships. Gather, interpret and represent data and express ideas mathematically. Engage in problem solving, using investigation and reasoning skills. use digital</i></p>	<p>1: Parents/Guardians should highlight the importance of numeracy skills in everyday life e.g. making sure all tasks are done for homework by ticking off what has been completed in a timely manner (Problem solving). Emphasise the importance of using maths in everyday life, from managing finances to completing tasks on time.</p> <p>2. Ensure your child has access to resources such</p>

	<i>technology to develop numeracy skills and understanding.</i>	as calculators and technology to enhance their mathematical understanding. Additionally, seek support from teachers and educators to promote your child's numeracy development.
<b>Retention</b>	<i>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)</i>	<p>1: As a parent, it is important to recognize the significance of your child's attendance and completion of school. Encourage and motivate your child to attend school regularly by reinforcing the importance of education and the long-term benefits it brings.</p> <p>2. Additionally, recognizing and rewarding your child's academic achievements can boost their confidence and drive to succeed (check Vshare).</p> <p>3. Stay engaged with your child's academic progress by attending parent-teacher conferences and addressing any concerns or challenges they may face. By being actively involved in your child's education, you can help ensure their success and promote a bright future.</p>
<b>Educational attainment</b>	<i>(DEIS CPD) Examination attainment focuses on attainment in the certificate examinations, and also</i>	1. As parents and guardians, there are several ways we can support our children's

	<p><i>includes target setting, strategies and monitoring of progress with regards to student outcomes in school based assessments and examinations.</i></p>	<p>examination attainment. Firstly, we should check their student journals every night and monitor their homework completion. This helps us to stay informed about their progress and identify any areas where they may need extra support.</p> <p>2. Secondly, it's important to discuss exam results with our children and help them identify potential areas for improvement. This can help them set targets and develop strategies for success in future assessments.</p> <p>3. It is crucial to praise our children and recognise their efforts, regardless of their exam results. Encouragement and positivity can help boost their confidence and motivation, leading to better outcomes in the long run.</p>
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