



DEIS PLANNING TO IMPROVE RETENTION 2025-2028

Review and Rationale

Our DEIS retention plan is crucial for addressing disadvantage, improving attendance, engagement, and academic outcomes, and reducing early school leaving. School retention is fundamental to all that goes on in St Oliver Plunkett NS. This plan must be read in conjunction with the other DEIS Plans as Parental Involvement, Attendance, DEIS Numeracy and Literacy and Partnership with Outside Agencies. All have the common shared goal; that children will remain in school and achieve their potential. Strategies for retention work in tandem with these other policies. For this to happen, children must be happy. This plan aims to work on this aim by providing a wide variety of learning opportunities for our students.

Targets

- to track **attendance, academic performance, behaviour, and engagement** and identify trends, gaps, and emerging at-risk groups
- That 100% of children will remain in school from Junior Infants to 6th class.
- That 100% of each 6th class group successfully transition to secondary school year on year.
- To review current process and procedures on an ongoing basis and to Review the **effectiveness of support programs**:

- Attempt to increase the numbers of students involved in After school activities/training etc
- To extend and develop current Nurture programmes-supporting the whole student and empowering them to engage with school.
- Extend capacity for Training and Upskilling in Nurture Programmes-work with Nurturing Ireland schools- conference and online training.
- Continue to develop school capacity to understand a Trauma Informed Approach to education through active engagement with NCSE, NEPS and TUSLA as well as outside specialist services.
- That children will be active members in their school community and have a voice when it comes to school decisions and policy work.

Actions

Actions 2025 – 2026	Actions 2026 - 2027	Actions 2027-2028
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing week-a week dedicated to kindness and friendship-engaging in school activities eg. Walk a Mile with a Smile. Zumba, Skipping, Gymnastics, etc. • Nurture Ireland training 4 staff-January 2026-BOM funding • Nurture Ireland Conference Attendance –November 25 • Roots of Empathy-SCP in 3rd class • Attendance Awards-Improvements noted and rewarded. • Introduction of Lenny the therapy dog from 3rd -6th class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet and Greet Parents-September Cluster meetings continued. • Improve the physical environment of the school-Sensory Garden, Nurture room etc • Extend Nurture Ireland Training for 4 additional staff members. • Continue Roots of Empathy classes • Develop an active Parents Council and to involve them in the school as much as possible. • Therapy Dog-Continued and extended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellbeing week continued-a week dedicated to kindness and friendship-engaging in school activities eg. Walk a Mile with a Smile. Zumba, Skipping Food Art etc. Continue Roots of Empathy classes • Continue Roots of Empathy classes • Therapy Dog-Continued and extended • Targeted Deis time on timetable continued-team teaching activities to reach Target children.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmel Behan-Art therapist for children who would benefit from 1:1 sessions • Engagement in NEPS Counselling supports. • 1:1 SCP sessions for children requiring additional supports • Targeted Deis time on timetable-team teaching activities to reach Target children. • Breakfast Club each morning to improve attendance and deal with specific cases of known school refusal • Homework Club Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in conjunction with SCP. • DEIS Literacy and Numeracy Summer Camps • Involve outside agencies and EW/O • Meet and Greet Parents-September parent meeting in cluster groups • Continue to improve the physical environment of the school-Sensory Garden, Nurture room etc. • Look to develop outdoor learning space-funding required for this initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the communication to parents of initiatives in the school through the use of Social Media platform, Aladdin Connect • Targeted Deis time on timetable-team teaching activities to reach Target children. • Carmel Behan-Art therapist for children who would benefit from 1:1 sessions • Engagement in NEPS Counselling supports. • 1:1 SCP sessions for children requiring additional supports • Breakfast Club each morning to improve attendance and deal with specific cases of known school refusal • Homework Club Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in conjunction with SCP. • Continue to promote initiatives such as Incredible Edibles, Supervalu Let's Grow Project and development of our school garden • DEIS Literacy and Numeracy Summer Camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breakfast Club each morning to improve attendance and deal with specific cases of known school refusal • Carmel Behan-Art therapist for children who would benefit from 1:1 sessions • Engagement in NEPS Counselling supports. • 1:1 SCP sessions for children requiring additional supports • Continue to promote initiatives such as Incredible Edibles, Supervalu Let's Grow Project and development of our school garden • Homework Club Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in conjunction with SCP. • DEIS Literacy and Numeracy Summer Camps • Continue to improve the physical environment of the school-Sensory Garden, Nurture room etc • Look to develop outdoor learning space-funding required for this initiative.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to promote initiatives such as Incredible Edibles, Supervalu Let's Grow Project and development of our school garden. • Continue to develop an active Parents Council and to involve them in the school as much as possible. • Increase the communication to parents of initiatives in the school through the use of Social Media platform, Aladdin Connect. • Continue to provide Hot School Lunch Programme. • Continue to develop Student voice through Student Council engagement. • SCP to link with target 6th class pupils following transition to secondary school. • DEIS Literacy and Numeracy Summer Camps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole school assemblies introduced. Certificates for Kindness, attainments, improved attendance, Star of the Yard etc. • Continue to develop Student voice through Student Council engagement. • Profile students in risk of early school leaving. • Continue to provide Hot School Lunch Programme. • Wellness Week continued • SCP to link with target 6th class pupils following transition to secondary school. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop Student voice through Student Council engagement. • Increase the communication to parents of initiatives in the school through the use of Social Media platform, Aladdin Connect • Profile students in risk of early school leaving. • Continue to provide Hot School Lunch Programme. • SCP to link with target 6th class pupils following transition to secondary school.
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Monitoring and Evaluation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor attendance and incidents of school refusal • Continue to liaise with FWO and outside agencies for support • Survey children on their thoughts about school - Whole School Survey 		

This Policy was reviewed by the Board of Management and ratified on 17-12-2025

Signed: *John Condon*

Chairperson



Signed: *V Flattery*

Principal.