

Supports to DEIS Schools – Effective from 2017/18 School Year

Lower Class Size (DEIS Band 1 only)

Staffing Arrangements for Primary Schools are issued in the annual staffing Circulars and set out the schedules pertaining to DEIS Schools. They are available at the following links:

Primary Circular

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0010_2018.pdf

Voluntary Secondary Schools

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0007_2018.pdf

C&C Schools

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0008_2018.pdf

ETB Schools

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0009_2018.pdf

Lower thresholds apply for DEIS Band 1 schools. Posts allocated on the basis of the staffing schedule are specifically for mainstream classes and should be deployed accordingly. School authorities are requested to ensure that the number of pupils in any class is kept as low as possible, taking all relevant contextual factors into account (e.g. classroom accommodation, fluctuating enrolment etc.). However, school authorities should, where possible, use their autonomy under the staffing schedule to implement smaller class sizes for junior classes. DEIS Urban Band 1 Vertical schools should implement the recommended 20:1 ratio at junior level and 24:1 at senior level.

Administrative Principals (DEIS Band 1 and 2 only)

DEIS Band 1 and Band 2 schools are allocated Administrative Principal/Deputy Principal posts on a lower threshold than that in non-DEIS Schools. The relevant thresholds are set out in the same Circular referred to above which is issued to schools annually.

Primary

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0010_2018_appendix_b.pdf

Guidance Counsellor Posts – Post Primary

With effect from the 2017/18 school year, all DEIS Post Primary Schools have access to a dedicated guidance counsellor. Circulars outlining annual staffing arrangements contain the relevant details (see links above under Lower Class Size)

DEIS Grant (All DEIS Schools)

Schools included in the School Support Programme under DEIS receive a grant which is based on the level of concentrated disadvantage in each school and the schools enrolment. It is paid in addition to the capitation grant and recognises the limited potential for DEIS Schools to fundraise locally.

The DEIS grant should be used to support the implementation of the schools DEIS Action Plan for Improvement, which sets targets under key themes, such as Attendance, Retention, Progression, Literacy, Numeracy, Partnership, Transition, Wellbeing and Examination Attainment (Post Primary Only). A key focus of these themes is that they are targeted at those pupils most at risk of educational disadvantage.

Guidelines on the expenditure of the grant are available at the following link:
https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services/DEIS-Delivering-Equality-of-Opportunity-in-Schools-/deis_funding_guidelines.pdf

School Book Grant Scheme (All DEIS Schools)

The Department provides funding to all schools under the Free Education Scheme to provide financial assistance for books. All schools in the DEIS programme receive an enhanced book grant and under Action 20 of DEIS Plan 2017 all DEIS schools are required to establish a book rental scheme. The details of the enhanced book grant are available at:

Primary

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0030_2015.pdf

Post Primary

https://www.education.ie/en/Circulars-and-Forms/Active-Circulars/cl0046_2013.pdf

The Department has published guidelines to assist schools in establishing rental schemes which can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/Textbook-Rental-Schemes-in-Schools/Guidelines-for-Developing-Textbook-Rental-Schemes-in-Schools.pdf>

School Meals (All DEIS Schools)

The School Meals Programme, which is operated by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, provides funding towards provision of food services for disadvantaged school children through two schemes:

- The non-statutory School Meals Local Projects Scheme provides funding directly from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection to primary schools, secondary schools and local groups and voluntary organisations which operate their own school meals projects.
- The statutory Urban School Meals Scheme for primary schools is operated by Local Authorities and part-financed by the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection.

The School Meals Programme aims to provide regular, nutritious food to children who are unable, by reason of lack of good quality food, to take full advantage of the education provided for them. Further information including the application form is available at the following link:

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/School-Meals-Programme.aspx>

In September 2017, “National Standards for School Meals” was published by the Department of Health in association with this Department and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. This document is a valuable resource to support the ongoing work to enable and promote healthy eating and healthy lifestyles in schools and will help more children to derive the maximum benefit from their education so that they can achieve their full potential. All schools participating in the School Meals Programme can access the document at the following link:

<http://health.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/nutrition-guidelines-full.pdf>

Home School Community Liaison Scheme (DEIS Band 1, DEIS Band 2 and Post Primary DEIS Schools)

The Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Scheme is a school-based intervention provided to DEIS schools to address the needs of pupils/families in disadvantaged areas through acknowledging and developing the role of the parent as prime educator. This is achieved through targeting the families of pupils most at risk of educational disadvantage and putting in place a range of appropriate support interventions. HSCL Coordinator posts are full time posts, filled by qualified teachers, allocated to DEIS (urban primary and all post primary) schools. Some HSCL posts are allocated on a shared basis between DEIS schools (in cluster groups) and can be shared across primary and post primary schools.

While operational responsibility for the HSCL scheme rests with the Educational Welfare Service (EWS) of Tusla, the Department of Education and Skills is responsible for the funding of teachers performing the role of HSCL Coordinator in participating DEIS schools, and accordingly has an ongoing engagement with the EWS to ensure the efficacy of the scheme.

Further information on the scheme is available at the following link:

<http://www.tusla.ie/services/educational-welfare-services/publications/hscl-publications>

Any queries relating to the HSCL scheme should in the first instance be directed to the contacts listed at:

<http://www.tusla.ie/services/educational-welfare-services/school-support-services-under-the-deis-initiative/home-school-community-liaison-scheme>

School Completion Programme (SCP)

The School Completion Programme is one of three strands of an integrated Educational Welfare Service including the Home School Community Liaison Scheme and the statutory Educational Welfare Service. The SCP provides a range of interventions that support the retention of children and young people in education, who are at risk of not reaching their full potential because of poor attendance, participation and attainment. The desired impact of

the Programme is the retention of young people to Leaving Certificate level, equivalent qualification or a suitable level of educational attainment which enables them to transition into further education, training or employment.

The majority of schools included in the SCP are DEIS schools.

For the current school year, no additional schools will be included in the SCP. This is to facilitate the implementation of the outcome of a recent review and possible re-clustering and realignments with other EWS services.

Priority Access to Centre for School Leadership (CSL)/Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)

DEIS schools applying for the range of supports available from CSL and PDST will receive priority over other schools within the current capacity. The CSL will give priority to DEIS Principals who wish to access the coaching service and, for the post-graduate diploma in school leadership, a number of places have been reserved for teachers from DEIS Schools.

PDST will also give priority to DEIS Schools in facilitating school visits from advisors. There are also a number of DEIS specific programmes for which PDST provide support such as Reading Recovery, JSCP, etc.

Priority Access to Incredible Years and Friends Programmes

All teachers in DEIS schools can now access both the Incredible Years Teacher Programme and the Friends Programme which are supported by the Government's National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS). Teachers in all DEIS schools have been invited to apply for places on these programmes which are being delivered through the Education Centre Network.

Incredible Years is an evidence-based programme for teachers, partnering with parents, which reduces behavioural difficulties and strengthens social and emotional competence in primary school-age children. The Friends Programme reduces anxiety and promotes coping and resilience in children and young people from 4 – 18 years and can be delivered by teachers universally or targeted smaller groups of pupils.

For further information see the attached Press Release which outlines the plans for the rollout of the programmes.

<https://www.education.ie/en/Press-Events/Press-Releases/2017-Press-Releases/PR2017-10-09.html>

Further Links to Useful Publications and Information

DEIS Plan 2017 - <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/DEIS-Plan-2017.pdf>

Looking at Action Planning for Improvement in DEIS Primary Schools - <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Inspection-Reports-Publications/Evaluation-Reports-Guidelines/Looking-at-Action-Planning-for-Improvement-in-DEIS-Primary-Schools.pdf>

Looking at Action Planning for Improvement in DEIS Post Primary Schools - <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Inspection-Reports-Publications/Evaluation-Reports-Guidelines/Looking-at-Action-Planning-for-Improvement-in-DEIS-Post-Primary-Schools.pdf>

Learning from the Evaluation of DEIS, ESRI publication - <http://www.esri.ie/pubs/RS39.pdf>