



Beech Hill College
Monaghan

DEIS PLAN 2016-2019

Some Summary Points

The Education Act 1998 refers to educational disadvantage as “the impediments to education arising from social or economic disadvantage which prevent students from deriving the appropriate benefits from education in schools.” There are many symptoms of educational disadvantage:

- Poor participation in education
- Low attendance at school
- Early school leaving
- Low levels of achievement in examinations
- Inadequate parental support
- Literacy and numeracy difficulties
- Ill health
- Cultural diversity

It is the view of the stakeholders in Beech Hill College that participation in DEIS will encourage us to evaluate and consolidate the work we are doing to tackle educational disadvantage in our school community.

The aim of this DEIS/SSE plan is to prioritise the eight DEIS areas

**ATTENDANCE RETENTION NUMERACY LITERACY PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS
PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS EXAMINATION ATTAINMENT PROGRESSION**

The DEIS Team (Teachers and SCP Coordinator) will endeavour to collate and analyse data where possible with a view to addressing the current situation in each of the key areas. This information will give us a picture of what is working well in each area and what needs to be improved. We have devised specific targets for each DEIS stand and measures to achieve these targets.

This gives us an opportunity to address student outcomes and to evaluate the work we are doing. Our school faces many challenges and these challenges require a whole school approach. We must “ensure that there is a common understanding, especially within the school staff, of the impact of educational disadvantage on the educational progress of students and recognition of the associated issues.” (The Education Act 1998)

What the DEIS Team have already done

ATTENDANCE: We reward v.good and improved Attendance at assemblies. We support poor attenders with an Attendance Journal. HSCL sends out Attendance Alert Cards regularly. We created an Every Day Counts leaflet for all homes. We run an annual Every Day Counts Campaign. We hold an Every Day Counts badge competition every year. The Woodwork Dept created a visual 'Every Day Counts' display. We liaise with Primary Schools re incoming pupils with attendance issues. Staff maintain accurate VsWare attendance records.

RETENTION: Provision of taster/induction programme for all first years. Provision of written assessment on 'settling in' in December. SCP provides Homework Club. Specific Guidance support for students re subject choice and other issues. Subsidised supervised evening study with free sandwich, fruit and drink.

LITERACY: Intensive EAL for all newcomer pupils. The Accelerated Reader Programme in the school library. Drop Everything and Read. Book in the Bag and Peer Reading Initiatives.

NUMERACY: Focus on time – Digital or analogue clocks placed in all classrooms. Specific time related questions on the term tests. Numerical information displayed around the corridors. Fun Maths Week.

EXAMINATION ATTAINMENT: We reduced the cost of evening study and provide free food to all students undertaking evening study. We engaged Athena Analytics to carry out an analysis of JC and L results for Departmental Meetings and future planning. Pupils from non-English speaking backgrounds are encouraged and supported to continue studying their native language.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSION: The Guidance Programme organises presentations from various colleges and trip to Open Days including CMETB Careers event and Higher Options. One to one Guidance interviews are held with all 5th and 6th year students. A noticeboard displaying progression details of past pupils was created to inspire pupils. In order to create more college awareness plaques were erected outside teacher's rooms. A transfer programme has been established between Monaghan Institute and LCA students.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS: Interpreters are provided at P/T meetings. Targeted parents are supported to attend the Parents Plus Programme. Cooking on a Budget classes are organised for parents in school. Attendance is recorded at P/T meetings. HSCL contacts homes of pupils before P/T meetings to encourage attendance. Parents are welcomed at celebration events and communicated with regularly through the use of the homework journal. Meetings are organised with Senior Management and or Year Heads as the need arises.

PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS: We link with various local businesses and organisations such as Bank of Ireland, MSPCA, Combi Lift in many subject areas. In some cases there are formal links such as the 'Business in the Community' module with Combi Lift. In other cases partnership with external agencies is organised and promoted at certain times of the year eg fundraising for local charities, liaising with feeder primary schools re transfer and organising work experience for our pupils.

This is what we are now going to work on:

Listening to Parent voice and improving communication

All students to self-assess and work out percentages following exams

Traffic lights to be used in classrooms

Promoting the Lithuanian short course and other language books for the library

Construction of photo booth for CBA practice

Parents: This is what you can do to help

Weekly signature – continue to check the school journal weekly for comments from teachers.

Note the dates for Parent/Teacher meetings and make a special effort to attend or make an alternative appointment.

Continue to encourage you son/daughter to embrace all opportunities given to them to excel in every way possible.