



We are pleased to share the progress we have made in meeting the targets set out in our three-year DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) Action Plan for the years 2022-2025. This plan was designed to improve outcomes in 8 key areas including literacy, numeracy, attendance, retention, parental involvement, wellbeing, leadership and involvement with other agencies. Below is a summary of our achievements and ongoing efforts from Year 1 (2022-2023)

Year 1 (2022-2023) - Progress Overview

1. Literacy

- **Primary Language Curriculum** was introduced and followed at each class level.
- Purchased and implemented **Red Rockets** readers for Junior Infants to 2nd class.
- **Station Teaching** was introduced in all classes, focusing on oral language development.
- Participated in local literacy initiatives like **Wainfest** and **READ DL**.
- Standardised test scores were tracked using **Aladdin**, and plans to reduce the percentage of pupils scoring at Sten 5 by 2% each year were initiated.
- Year 1 scores showed a reduction of pupils scoring a sten 5

2. Numeracy

- Focused on teaching **problem-solving** weekly and daily discrete **mental maths** to improve agility.
- Resources for **station teaching** in numeracy were purchased, but it was decided to defer the roll out numeracy stations until the introduction of the new PMC. (Primary Maths Curriculum)
- Continued **Maths Talk** across the school to standardise maths language and reduce confusion.

3. Attendance

- Reviewed and updated the school's **attendance policy** to address post-COVID attendance issues.
- Increased communication with parents through **Aladdin Connect**, highlighting the importance of good attendance.
- **Soft starts** were introduced for children with poor attendance to create a welcoming environment.

4. Parental Involvement

- Strengthened communication with parents through regular updates, newsletters, and our school's website and social media pages.
- Parents were actively involved in initiatives like **Maths for Fun** and the **Mystery Reader, Grandparents Day** programs, enriching the classroom experience.

5. Wellbeing

- Discussed introducing the **THRIVE TIME** project, aimed at improving mental health and resilience.
- Piloted new strategies like **movement breaks** and the introduction of a **Wellbeing Noticeboard** to emphasize mental and physical health.

6. Partnerships

- Built stronger relationships with local sports clubs and companies, involving them in school activities such as **STEAM** and **sports coaching** and **wellbeing**.
- Held meetings with local community groups and schools to foster collaboration.

7. Leadership

- Enhancing leadership roles in the school through a **Distributed Leadership Model**.
- **Leadership Role Redefinition:** Duties for leadership roles were redefined to align with the **Looking at Our Schools: A Quality Framework for Primary Schools** model. (LAOS 2022)
- **New AP2 Posts:** New **Assistant Principal (AP2)** posts were advertised and filled to strengthen leadership capacity.

- **Monthly Leadership Meetings:** Regular leadership meetings held with Principal, Deputy Principal, and AP2 post-holders to review progress and set goals.
- **Distributed Leadership Model:** Teachers were encouraged to take on leadership roles in their areas of expertise (e.g., Digital Learning, Wellbeing, PE, Literacy etc.).
- **Professional Development (CPD):** Continuous CPD opportunities were encouraged and provided to enhance leadership skills, including new curriculum focus and wellbeing training.
- **Staff Collaboration:** Leadership encouraged staff collaboration through shared knowledge sessions during Croke Park hours.

8.Retention

- Ensuring pupils remain in school and make smooth transitions to secondary education.
 - **Targeted Support for At-Risk Students:** Priority given to at-risk children for **Breakfast Club/After-School Club** placements. (In collaboration with Smart Steps and Bayhill kids club)
 - **Parental Engagement:** Principal met/spoke with parents of children with poor attendance to implement strategies for improvement.
 - **Building Relationships:** Teachers focused on building strong relationships with new pupils and families to ensure they felt welcomed into the community.
 - **Collaboration with Secondary Schools:** Close cooperation with local secondary schools to ensure smooth transitions for 6th class pupils.
 - **Themed Weeks:** Regular events such as **Science Week, Wellbeing Week, and Friendship Week** to keep students engaged and motivated.
 - **Positive Recognition:** **Student of the Month, School Spirit Awards, and Dojo Prizes** were given to celebrate achievements and promote positive school spirit.
 - **Sports Teams & Activities:** Encouragement of participation in sports teams and other school activities to foster a sense of belonging.

As year one is now complete, we take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your continued engagement and support of Scoil Mhuire. Your involvement has been a vital part of helping us work toward and achieve the targets we set in our DEIS plan. From volunteering your time at school events to supporting your children's learning at home, your input has made a real difference.

We look forward to continuing this learning and teaching journey with you as we strive together to provide a holistic experience for all our pupils.

Staff of Scoil Mhuire.

