
DEIS Evaluation

Date of inspection	10-05-2023
Inspection activities undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview with principal and relevant staff• Examination of school's current action plans for improvement• Observation of DEIS-related activities and interventions• Student focus-group meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent focus-group meeting• Analysis of parent and pupil/student questionnaires• Observation of teaching and learning• Examination of students' work• Interaction with students• Feedback to principal, deputy principal and relevant staff

School context

St. Tiernan's Community School participates in the DEIS action plan. It has the services of a full-time home-school-community-liaison (HSCL) coordinator and participates in the School Completion Programme (SCP). At the time of the evaluation there were 323 students enrolled in the school.

It offers Junior Cycle including the Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) which is undertaken by all students. An optional Transition Year (TY) programme, the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme and the established Leaving Certificate are also offered.

Summary of main findings and recommendations:

Findings

- The quality of leadership and of DEIS action planning was good.
- The quality of planning and implementation of DEIS themes was good overall, however, some areas for improvement exist.
- The quality of action planning to support student wellbeing was very good; students' wellbeing was fostered through the provision of a broad range of curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular learning opportunities.
- DEIS resources were used effectively for their intended purpose.
- The HSCL and SCP officers worked very effectively with the DEIS team, however the quality of planning did not always reflect the very good practices in place.

Recommendations

- To ensure that all teachers implement actions across all themes, the DEIS working groups which were previously in place should be reconstituted and include teachers from a range of disciplines.
- The DEIS team should collaboratively review the DEIS action plan to ensure that meaningful actions and measures are identified for all targets across all themes.
- The DEIS team should make use of all available data to review the identification of priority students for each theme.
- The actions and measures for LCA should be reviewed under each theme to optimise their impact on this specific cohort.
- Teachers should share strategies on how to provide more individualised feedback to students and implement them.