

Deis 2025: A Report for Parents

We are pleased to share an update highlighting our school's ongoing progress and positive achievements. Our commitment is to foster a supportive environment where every student can optimise their potential.

Enhancing Learning and Attainment We are strengthening academic foundations across the school. Many teachers now embed study skills in lessons and homework, and we're expanding this school-wide. The vast majority of students actively set target grades, with many discussing them with teachers and at home. We will continue to support this through information and workshops, ensuring students feel empowered.

Students regularly engage with exam-style questions in lessons, building their confidence. It's excellent that students report widespread sharing of learning intentions and success criteria by teachers, a practice increasingly adopted by staff. This clarity significantly aids student understanding.

This year, we've focused on effective classroom questioning. Students value teacher clarity, and we're dedicated to enhancing this. Encouragingly, most teachers use diverse questioning techniques beyond hand-raising, promoting broader participation through cooperative learning. We'll further support this with visual aids next year. All subject departments maintain ambitious targets for state examinations, reflecting our belief in student potential.

Attendance, Retention, and Partnerships Our school's attendance remains strong and compares well nationally, with a welcome decrease in extended student absences. Student retention is positive; those who transition typically pursue further education or trades. We're especially proud of the LCA programme's excellent retention, and our overall retention rates are consistently high.

Our partnership with you is vital. Strong attendance at the first-year induction night and good engagement at JCSP events and Parent-Teacher meetings demonstrate this shared commitment. The LCA Careers Day was a success for students, and we continue to welcome parental involvement in the Parents' Association and various parent courses. Our collaborations with external agencies, local businesses, and the re-established intergenerational reading group also enrich our students' experiences.

Developing Essential Skills We're seeing excellent progress in students' oral presentation skills, with most meeting or exceeding expectations. The 'COPS' writing strategy is now used by a significant and growing number of students. In numeracy, a very impressive majority of students confidently use the 'Read, Write, Try' problem-solving method, an increase from last year. Confidence in real-life numeracy application is also growing, especially among LCA and target groups.

Supporting Educational Transitions There's been a significant, welcome rise in students choosing the LCA programme, supported by targeted events. Programme choice workshops for

parents (with well-received online options) and students have been successful. More LCA graduates are progressing to further education and apprenticeships. While final third-level progression figures are pending, we see diverse career aspirations, including direct employment. A substantial increase in students using the DARE scheme is also very positive. Senior cycle choices are diversifying, reflecting students' thoughtful pathway planning. Our 'Belonging+' programme increasingly benefits first-year students, and the AAL programme is valued for its real-world business links.

We are proud of these positive developments and remain dedicated to continuous improvement. Thank you for your invaluable support.