# DEIS Three-Year Plan

Summary Framework

**School Name: The Rock National School**

**Roll Number: 18206T**

**Period of Plan: 2023-2026**

**Date(s) of Ratification by Board of Management:**

**School Context**:

**Patron**: Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

**Chairperson**: Ms. Margaret Culliton

**Principal**: Mr. Liam Ahern

**Staff**: 8 class teacher, 4 SETs, 3.83 SNAs, 1 secretary & 1 caretaker.

**Pupils**: 200 (2023)

**Parents/Guardians**: There is an active Parents’ Council in the school. Chairperson: Ms. Corina Dooley

**ISM (In School Management)**: Mrs. Michelle Kirwan (DP, SEN coordinator), Mr. Michael Fennelly (Numeracy coordinator), Ms. Ashley Molloy ( DEIS plan coordinator, Educational transitions),

Ms. Deirdre Fitzpatrick (Literacy coordinator, attendance, retention & student council)

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| **Summary Plan to promote RETENTION** | | | | | |
| **Target(s):**  State in specific terms how RETENTION should improve as a result of measures in the school s DEIS plan *(number the targets)*   1. *To welcome new pupils to the school and cooperate with other schools regarding new students.* 2. *To retain 100% of pupils as school willing attendees up to 6th class* 3. *To work with the target children and parents/guardians* 4. *To ensure that 100% of pupils (those to which it is applicable) complete the secondary school entrance examination* 5. *Promotion of events in school throughout the year* | | | | | |
| **Actions:**  State proposed measures (both existing and new) to improve RETENTION. *Actions should be sequenced and coordinated over the three years of the plan to achieve maximum effect* | | | | | |
| **Measure** | To address  target(s) no. | **Who?** | **Lead responsibility** | **When?** | **Resources?** |
| Teachers to build relationships with new children and families to welcome them to the school community.  Teachers to liaise with formers schools of new pupils to facilitate transition. | 1 | CTS  Principal | Principal | When need arises |  |
| Organisation and promotion of themed weeks and days throughout the year: science week/maths week/seachtain na gaeilge/sports day/themed dress up days/school tours and excursions/library visits/ice cream van day/band wagon concert/bake sale days etc. | 2 & 5 | ISM  CTs | ISM | Ongoing throughout the year | School Calendar |
| Liaise with secondary schools and in school management to follow transition plan to ensure smooth transition between primary and post primary schools. | 4 | ISM | ISM | May  June | Education Passports  My Child’s Profile  6th Class Report Cards |
| Facilitation of ‘Social Club’ for target children each Wednesday morning. This will organized by SETs and SNAs. This will involve breakfast, social skills, learning life skills and other social activities for the target children. | 3 | SETs  SNAs | SETs  SNAs | Ongoing throughout the year | Social Club equipment organized by SETs and SNAs. |
| **Monitoring:**  State how progress will be monitored and at what intervals (monthly/ termly/annually...) over the three years  All measures will be monitored according to their specific time frames listed above by Principal, management, staff & BOM. | | | | | |
| **Evaluation:**  State how impact of actions on RETENTION will be evaluated at the end of the three years State how progress will be measured, using baseline and targets as guide.  These processes will both be reviewed annually by Principal, management, staff and BOM and by liaising with our post primary schools. | | | | | |

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| **Summary Plan to promote ATTENDANCE** | | | | | |
| **Target(s):**   1. To reduce the number of children missing 20+ days from 33% over a three-year period (66 students out of 199) 2. To incentivise those with poor attendance to attend school more regularly. 3. To continue to work with parents to improve attendance and punctuality. 4. *To continue with current practices of monitoring, reviewing and reports on attendance via Aladdin.* 5. *To continue to promote and foster positive attitudes to learning.* 6. *To highlight and reward children with a high attendance record* | | | | | |
| **Actions:**  Our attendance levels will be tracked and monitored using the Aladdin system Class teachers will input data into the system each morning. A whole school approach will be used. | | | | | |
| **Measure** | To address  target(s) no. | **Who?** | **Lead responsibility** | **When?** | **Resources?** |
| Daily tracking and monitoring of children’s attendance and punctuality using Aladdin. Encourage children to be punctual and attend school regularly.  Continue to request absent notes from parents. | 1,4 | All Class Teachers | All Class Teachers | Daily | Aladdin |
| Encourage and reward those with high attendance with certificates, homework free days, baking activities ….. | 3,5,6 | All class Teachers | All class teachers | Termly |  |
| Introduction of a social club on Wednesday mornings whereby children will have their breakfast in school. | 1,2,5 | SET and SNA’s | SET and SNA’s | Every Wednesday morning. |  |
| Continue to plan two trips per class per academic year – bog walk, teddy bear’s picnic, historical tour of Mountmellick, kayaking, windmills tour ………..etc  Continue to inform parents via text and letter if pupil is approaching 20 day absence mark | 1,2,3,5,  1,2,3,4, | All class teachers  Secretary | All class teachers  Principal | During the academic year  On-going |  |
| **Monitoring:**  Principal and secretary will monitor via Aladdin. Class teachers will track absences. | | | | | |
| **Evaluation:**  This plan will be reviewed on an ongoing basis with an in depth review taking place at the end of each academic year. The staff will review the plan at planning meetings. We will review which targets have been achieved and which need to be carried forward to the following year. | | | | | |

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| **Summary Plan to improve LITERACY LEVELS** | | | | | |
| **Target(s):**  1. To improve the receptive language of the students.  2. To consolidate our Jolly Phonics Programme and increase awareness around phonemes, digraphs and blending skills.  3. To implement a phased introduction of blocks of station teaching/power hours in all class levels (Literacy Lift Off, TSI and Aistear)  4. To follow a whole school structured writing genre plan (as per recommendations from Department of Education Inspector)  5. Pupils to maintain or improve their standardized test scores. | | | | | |
| **Actions:** | | | | | |
| **Measure** | To address  target(s) no. | **Who?** | **Lead responsibility** | **When?** | **Resources?** |
| The Aistear programme will continue and expand in the Junior and Senior Infant classrooms. Resources to be purchased when necessary. | 1,2,3 | SET, Junior Infant and Senior Infant class teachers | Class Teachers | September – June | Themed resources |
| We will visit the local library in order to improve the listening skills of the students. Mountmellick Library often has authors visiting who read to the children and complete consolidation activities with the children. | 1,2,5 | All class teachers and SET | Class Teachers | Between September and June of the academic year. | n/a |
| Staff will collaborate and plan two writing genres per year (see writing genres plan). Teacher CPD to be carried out when the opportunity arises. | 1,3,4,5 | Class teachers and SET | Class teachers | All year | Writing Genre – A Structured Approach, PDST. |
| An informative meeting will be held with parents of those in Junior Infants. This will give a detailed introduction to the Jolly Phonics teaching method. | 2,4 | Junior Infant class teacher or/and SET | Junior Infant class teacher and/or SET | October | Jolly Phonics Powerpoint Presentation. |
| Purchase suitable literacy applications for i-pads and purchase resources for literacy stations for all class levels | 1,2,5 | All class teachers | All class teachers | As the need arises |  |
| Continue to use Aladdin to track standardised test scores. | 5 | All class teachers | All class teachers | End of May |  |
| **Monitoring:**  Progress will be monitored by each class teacher and at a whole school level by the Principal. Outcomes will feed into teacher planning for individual classes and planning across levels. | | | | | |
| **Evaluation:**  This plan will be reviewed on an ongoing basis with an in depth review taking place at the end of each academic year. The staff will review the plan at planning meetings. We will review which targets have been achieved and which need to be carried forward to the following year. | | | | | |

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| **Summary Plan to improve NUMERACY LEVELS** | | | | | |
| **Target(s):**  1) To maintain the % of children at or above the 81st percentile : 2021 stats show 62 children out of 152 =41%  2)To reduce the % of children scoring below the 20th percentile by 2% : 2021 stats show 30 children out of 152 = 20%  3) Improve competency in the strand number from Juniors – 3rd   4) Develop coordinated strategies to improve problem solving skills from 4th -6th  5) To highlight & monitor significant fluctuations in Sigma T results over a three year period and evaluate reasons for major deviations | | | | | |
| **Actions:**  State proposed measures (both existing and new) to improve NUMERACY LEVELS. *Actions should be sequenced and coordinated over the three years of the plan to achieve maximum effect* | | | | | |
| **Measure** | To address  target(s) no. | **Who?** | **Lead responsibility** | **When?** | **Resources?** |
| Purchase suitable apps and online Numeracy programmes to help improve number and problem solving. | 1,2,3,4 | Team Leader and class teacher | Class teachers and SET to purchase or inform Team leader what is needed | All year | Numicon |
| Introduce Numeracy Stations for all classes for specific tasks.  Improve mental math skills by daily discrete mental maths time | 1,2,3 | All class teachers and SET | Class Teachers and SET | All year |  |
| Use teaching strategies such as Team-Teaching and Station Teaching at all class levels. | 2,3,4 | All class teachers and SET | Class Teachers in co-ordination with SET | Suggested 2 x 6 week blocks |  |
| Consolidate Maths language throughout the school. Same approach to teaching problem solving. | 1,4 | Team leader to have meeting with teachers 3rd-6th to consolidate a co-ordinated approach | Class Teachers 4th – 6th | September | Language document for problem solving |
| Continue to use Aladdin to track standardised test scores. | 5 | Class teacher | Class teachers and SET | June- September | Sigma T tests |
| **Monitoring:**  Sigma T results assessed to establish overall improvement across all strands.  The results for number compiled for all children from Juniors- 3rd.  The results for problem solving compiled for all children 4th – 6th | | | | | |
| **Evaluation:**  Number- Each child will have three standard scores to compare and assess progress over the three years.  Problem solving- Each child will have three standard scores to compare and assess progress over the three years.  Overall results evaluated to establish if the above measures are helping to improve the overall standard of numeracy across the board in the school. | | | | | |

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| **Summary Plan to improve EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSION** | | | | | |
| **Target(s):**  State in specific terms how EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSION should improve as a result of measures in the school s DEIS plan *(number the targets)*   1. *To assist families and pupils with the transition of pupils from preschool-primary school.* 2. *To establish a link between our school and our feeder preschools to aid with the above transition.* 3. *To assist families and pupils with the transition of pupils from primary-post primary schools.* 4. *To establish a link between our school and local post primary schools to aid with the above transition.* | | | | | |
| **Actions:**  State proposed measures (both existing and new) to improve EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSION. *Actions should be sequenced and coordinated over the three years of the plan to achieve maximum effect* | | | | | |
| **Measure** | To address  target(s) no. | **Who?** | **Lead responsibility** | **When?** | **Resources?** |
| * We will contact all preschools of our incoming junior infants and invite them to share relevant information with us about these students. We will facilitate visits to preschools and contact via phone/email with the preschools. This will be at the discretion of the preschool teachers/managers. * We will forward the ‘M’Scéal’ template to preschools to fill out for their students (or their own designed templates) to be returned to us on the children’s Welcome Meeting day in June. * We will create a ‘Welcome to our School’ booklet with various relevant pictures of the classroom/school for preschool teachers to show the children. | 1 & 2 | CTs  ISM | ISM | February  March  April | Enrolments forms  M’Scéal Templates  Welcome to our school booklet |
| * Upon accepting a place in Junior Infants, Mr. Ahern will invite parents/guardians & pupils to meet with him to welcome them to the school, discuss relevant information with them and give them a quick tour. * Parents/guardians & pupils will also we invited to a Welcome Meeting in the school to visit the new classroom. | 1 & 2 | Principal  CTs  SET | Principal  ISM | March/April  June | Information pack for parents |
| * Communicate with post primary schools regarding pupils enrolled from our 6th class. * Education Passports will be filled out by students to forward to their respective post primary schools. * My Child’s Profile form to be sent to parents/guardians to fill out about their child and returned to the school. * 6th class reports cards to be forwarded to relevant post primary schools along with children’s Education Passports and My Child’s Profile. | 3 & 4 | 6th class teacher  Parents/guardians  Pupils | ISM | May  June | Education Passports  My Child’s Profile  6th Class Report Cards |
| **Monitoring:**  All measures will be monitored according to their specific time frames listed above by Principal, management, staff & BOM. | | | | | |
| **Evaluation:**  These processes will both be reviewed annually by Principal, management, staff and BOM and by liaising with our local preschools and post primary schools. | | | | | |

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| **Summary Plan to promote PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS** | | | | | |
| **Review**: Review current practice at the start of the year. | | | | | |
| **Target(s):**   1. Increase effective communication between school and Parents’ Council and all parents/guardians who have children attending the school. 2. Increase involvement of the Parents’ Council and parents/guardians in their child’s learning both at home and in the school. 3. Monitor the number of parents/guardians who attend parent-teacher meetings and seek to ensure that every parent/guardian is facilitated.   To improve parental involvement in the life of the school | | | | | |
| **Actions:** | | | | | |
| **Measure** | To address  target(s) no. | **Who?** | **Lead responsibility** | **When?** | **Resources?** |
| Work closely with the Parents’ Council to promote school initiatives.  Principal to attend AGM of Parents’ Council, Principal to meet chairperson of PC on regular basis. | 1,2,4 | Principal | Principal | AGM October.  Throughout the year. | AGM at the school |
| Use the school’s website, notes, newsletters and Aladdin to update parents/guardians via email and text messages, newsletters, notes etc | 1, 2,4 | Class teachers, SETs, secretary, principal | Principal | Throughout the year. |  |
| Foster a welcome environment by means of an induction meeting for Junior Infants & their parents/guardians. | 1,2,4 | JI class teacher, Chairperson PC, GAA Club, Principal | Principal | June |  |
| Parents Council to hold fundraiser(s). | 1,2,4 | Chairperson Parents’ Council | Chairperson Parents’ Council | Throughout the year |  |
| Educational speakers/courses for parents/guardians (such as Cyber Safety, first aid, IT, drug misuse, healthy eating, budgeting, dealing with anxiety, literacy initiatives, numeracy initiatives) | 1,2,4 | Principal &  Chairperson Parents’ Council | Chairperson Parents’ Council | 2-3 times throughout the year & coffee mornings |  |
| Monitor the number of parents/guardians who attend parent-teacher meetings | 3 | Principal | Principal | Following P-T meetings. | Aladdin |
| **Monitoring & Evaluation:**   * Regular informal, friendly open communication between parents/guardians and all school staff at school events such as religious ceremonies, sporting & musical events. * Regular formal parent – teacher meetings between all teaching staff and parents/guardians and via phone calls, notes home, emails and Aladdin text messages. * Occasional parental surveys to gather suggestions & feedback for school development and implementing suitable appropriate suggestions. * Issuing school calendar, newsletters and reminders of school events. * Monitoring & evaluation to be carried out by whole staff, parents/guardians & Parents’ Council. * Review actions at the end of each school year. | | | | | |
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| **Summary Plan to promote PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS** | | | | | |
| **Review**: Review current practice at the start of the year. We work with NEPS, NCCA, PDST, NCSE, GAA, FAI, LCC, DES, DSP, LSP, LOETB, Túsla, CAMHs, Gardaí, Food companies, local schools, local competitions, swimming pool, Gaybriel Lynam School of Irish Dancing, Music Generation Laois, community groups, charities and others | | | | | |
| **Target(s):**   1. Develop & improve communication and relationships with other schools, charities, companies, church and community groups in the area. 2. Develop & improve relationships with local sports clubs. 3. Promote our school and develop relationships with businesses, community groups. | | | | | |
| **Actions:** | | | | | |
| **Measure** | To address  target(s) no. | **Who?** | **Lead responsibility** | **When?** | **Resources?** |
| Set up meetings and host events with local groups.  Promote our school through open days/brochures/communication. | 1,3 | Whole school staff | Principal | Throughout the year. |  |
| Coaching from The Rock GAA Club(Gaelic Football), Mountmellick GAA Club (hurling), Portlaoise Leisure Centre (swimming), Gabriel Lynam (Irish Dancing, Music Gen. Laois (guitar, bodhrán, drumming & singing), Ficheall (chess), Speech & Drama (Sonya Cuddy), LSP (indoor athletics), library, Credit Union | 2 | Principal | Principal | Throughout the year. | Sports equipment, The Rock GAA Club sports facilities. |
| Attend meetings with NEPS/Túsla/CAMHs/HSE | 1 | Principal & Deputy Principal | Principal & Deputy Principal | 2-3 times per year or as necessary |  |
| Meetings & communications with secondary schools and playschools/creches to aid transitions. | 1,3 | AP2, Principal, Dep. Principal, 6th class teacher | AP2 | February/March  (creches, playschools)  October, June  (secondary schools) |  |
| **Monitoring & Evaluation:**  Review actions at the end of the year and evaluate which events/sports were successful.  Engagement of pupils in sports/music/drama etc listed above. Feedback from children & parents/guardians.  We have built upon existing relationships and fostered new ones since the beginning of the school year. Examples of this are trips to Mount Lucas Wind Farm & Abbeyleix Bog (Heritage in school scheme). | | | | | |
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## SUMMARY OF DEIS PLAN FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024

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| **DEIS Area** | **Targets** | **Measures in the Current Year** |
| **1. RETENTION** | Organise anxiety workshop 29.11.23(Sinead Flanagan)  Parents/guardians anxiety workshop 29.11.23  Breakfast club – targeted groups(junior end, senior end. | Anxiety workshops  Christmas trips to shows –JI/SI/1st/5th/6th |
| **2. ATTENDANCE** | 2021 - 2022 89.6% attendance overall  2022 - 2023 93.5% attendance overall  2023 - 2024 target 95% attendance  Spend attendance grant  20/20.Attendance for November – reward children who achieve 20 school days in a row.  Pupil of the Week.  Gold Bronze and silver certs at the end of the year.  Student Council suggestion –Christmas jumper day 8th December. | 20/20…there are 20 school days in November. Homework pass for those children who attend for 20 days. Possible repeat April 8th – May 3rd.  Homework voucher. 95% attendance rate target for 14th June –pizzas for all! Grant available.  Fun run – January/February |
| **3. LITERACY** | Ms. Kavanagh met junior infant parents/guardians on Tues 26th October re JI curriculum & Jolly Phonics programme.  Purchase diagnostic tests for speech/language, vocabulary, spelling  Ask O.T. to speak to staff during Croke Park hours.  JI - 2nd Decodable readers  Literacy Lift Off | Follow up at P/T meetings.  Book Fair – whole school activity.  Readathon – January/February.  Purchase additional resource – 2nd |
| **4. NUMERACY** | STATS – SIGMA T. Mr. Fennelly to coordinate targets re number (junior end) and problem solving(senior end)  Purchase Numicon  Continue with all other targets mentioned. | CPD Numicon…summer course |
| **5. EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSION** | As previously | As previously |
| **6. PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS** | Ger Brick –cyber safety 9th January 2023.  Carol Scott visit – Breast Cancer Ireland  As previously | As previously  17th January 2023. |
| **7. PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHERS** | Principal met with representatives from The Rock GAA Club to enhance communication & cooperation.  Not continuing with Speech & Drama  Indoor athletics/January? | Chairperson of juvenile club (Colm Burke) to visit the school at the start of the football season. Visit classrooms & distribute notes. |

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