

ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME



Programme for Educational Opportunity





ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME

FOREWORD

The School Completion Programme has been in operation since 2002. It currently operates in 82 clusters across the country, encompassing 299 primary schools and 112 post primary schools. In this time, Local Management Committees in each project area have worked diligently to put together retention plans supporting young people between the ages of 4 and 18 at risk of early school leaving.

Building on previous initiatives to tackle early school leaving, the School Completion Programme continues to advocate an integrated response to early school leaving, which focuses heavily on local communities responding to local needs.

It is therefore timely and appropriate for the publication of this handbook as School Completion Programme projects continue to embed themselves into the school system. The handbook clearly indicates that an integrated response to solving early school leaving is in operation and I would personally like to thank all the agencies, both statutory and voluntary, that have offered their support to the success of the School Completion Programme.

The handbook also illustrates the vast number of supports that are being implemented under the School Completion Programme. All the supports highlighted are organised by Local Co-ordinators in co-operation with principals, teachers, parents and young people in participating schools. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Local Co-ordinators, Project Workers and their participating schools for implementing a wide-ranging programme to help those young people most at risk of early school leaving.

Aidan Savage
National Co-ordinator, School Completion Programme



INTRODUCTION

The School Completion Programme is a Department of Education and Science initiative that aims to have a significant positive impact on levels of pupil retention in primary and second level schools and on the numbers of pupils who successfully complete the Senior Cycle.

The School Completion Programme is based on the concept of integrated services. Effective supports, both preventative and supportive, must include multi-faceted actions that respond to young people's needs. These range from social and personal development to after school and out-of-school supports including sport and leisure activities as well as supports that target the young person's home and community life. The School Completion Programme is based on a collaborative programme that works in partnership with community, youth and sporting organisations and with local representatives of national statutory bodies such as Community Guards, Juvenile Liaison Officers, Social Workers, Health Board personnel, Area-Based partnerships etc.

This handbook aims to document the vast and varied supports in operation in the School Completion Programme to date. The supports are categorised under the following headings: in school supports, after school supports, holiday supports and out-of-school supports. Many of the supports are carried out in partnership with other community/voluntary and statutory agencies, which adds to the quality and richness of services offered to young people at risk of leaving school early.



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IN SCHOOL SUPPORTS

In school supports are delivered during school hours. They are delivered directly to targeted young people at risk of early school leaving or to whole classes, using a “whole-school” approach.

In school supports are categorised under the following headings: academic support; sports/recreation/extra-curricular activities; therapeutic supports; programmes; clubs & meal provision; skills & training; profiling/monitoring; parental involvement; rewards; interagency work; support units and other supports.

Academic support

- One to One tuition
- Small group
- Team teaching
- Classroom Assistant- Individual support
- Curricular supports
- English support
- Individual learning plans
- Individualised curriculum: provided for target students that do not have Department of Education and Science resource hours
- Learning support: to support learning and self-esteem of target group
- Maths (special)
- Literacy & Numeracy- Part-time teachers
- Literacy classes
- Literacy support (Information Technology)

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- Numeracy support (Information Technology)
- Revision courses
- Study skills: to provide students with skills and knowledge on effective study habits
- Time Out Resource Teacher 1:1
- Tutor hours

Sports/Recreation/Extra-curricular activities

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|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • Board games | • Bowling |
| • Canoeing | • Dance |
| • Drama | • Horseriding |
| • Volleyball | • Judo |
| • Pottery | • Rugby |
| • Soccer | • Speech & Drama |
| • Swimming | • Tennis |
| • Woodcraft | • Woodwork |
| • Yoga | • Needlecraft |
| • Gardening/horticulture | • Hairdressing |
| • Metalwork | • Musicals/concerts |
| • Sports Education | • Traditional music |
| • Chess | |



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Therapeutic supports

- Art Therapy
- Dance therapy
- Family therapy
- Reading therapy
- One to One Child Therapy
- Beauty Therapy
- Emotional therapy
- Play therapy
- Speech therapy

Programmes

- 'Pathways to Education': Programme working with 2nd and 3rd years to boost self-esteem and confidence in young people and includes curriculum support
- Anti-bullying programme: To give students the skills necessary to deal with bullying if they become a victim
- Athletics programme: with trained coach for the target group
- Catch-up programme: A programme for children with repeated or prolonged absences. The main aim is to motivate pupils so that disillusionment and a sense of failure are not experienced
- Civic Link Programme: To explore the issue of 'conflict between young people and the Gardaí'. They are currently researching the issue under four categories: Gardaí, young people, policymakers and community
- Copping On Programme: Improved understanding of right and wrong, improved knowledge of the law
- Drug Awareness Programme: To expose the students to issues relating to drugs
- Dyslexia programme: Additional support to young people with dyslexia and other learning difficulties
- Family Literacy programme: To improve the literacy levels of the whole family

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- Health & Hygiene Programme: To improve health and confidence of students
- Incredible Years Programme: (Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties)
- Maths Programme: to develop numeric skills among the targeted students
- Meitheal Mentoring Programme: Mentoring programme based on the Meitheal model of good practice
- Mentoring programme: enabling students to develop self-esteem and personal development. To engage with Senior Students to acquire skills to work on a one to one basis with people
- Paired reading programme: To improve literacy skills through promoting reading as a pleasurable pastime
- Positive behaviour programme: to improve behaviour, increase attendance and punctuality
- Transition programme: To smoothen the transition from primary to post-primary school, and from junior to senior post-primary school
- Catering 4 Success Programme: Run in conjunction with Fáilte Ireland teaching students about cooking, health and hygiene
- Sports 4 Success: To develop literacy, numeracy and oral skills through the medium of sport. To develop social and personal skills through participation in sports
- Percussion programme: Community based programme based on learning new musical instruments
- Discipline Through Learning: to improve discipline within the schools and to make the school environment more conducive to learning
- Drama Module 'Stagecraft': To promote development through participation in drama, plays and shows
- Film School: development of communication, teamwork and technical skills



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Clubs & Meal Provision

- Almost Home Club: training and development of parents as educators
- Bakery club: To provide students with the opportunity to explore cooking in a fun way as well as team building skills through a social development perspective
- Breakfast club: Service that provides nutritional start to the day for young people in order to improve their concentration in the classroom and improve attendance
- Computer Club: Development of positive attitude to school through Information Technology.
- Lunchtime Activity Clubs: To increase students involvement and happiness in school activities
- Meal provision: breakfast and lunch for target group
- Amigos Club: Mentoring Programme facilitated by Project Worker for Transition Year students and 1st Years.
- Time Out: Students have opportunity to meet with Project Worker trained in counselling in co-operation with school care team.
- Storytelling club: to enhance reading skills and improve concentration
- Mother and child pottery group
- Video Club
- Lunch time movies
- Lunchtime special interest group
- Women's group (Leaving Certificate Applied)



Skills & Training

- Anger management: to improve students' understanding of inter-personal relations
- Art education: To improve awareness of students' talents through music, dance and drama
- Assertiveness training
- Behaviour management
- Circle time: To improve students' self-esteem and language development
- Computer classes/European Computer Drivers Licence
- Cookery
- Health & Safety
- Counselling for students: to give students a sense of belonging and worth, environment of trust, care, improve self-esteem of student and parent, support in the face of changing world of drugs, family, break up, grief, abuse etc.
- Drugs information
- Mental health matters: skills development in relation to dealing with mental health issues
- Personal development: to provide workshops for students on building self-esteem and other self-development issues
- Response education: to provide workshops for students dealing with all issues in their lives including sexual development
- Staff development: staff development on issues relating to educational disadvantage
- Volunteer development: skills development, responsibility, positive image of the community
- Inservice: to provide additional training and workshops for teachers
- Group work- self esteem
- Language development classes
- Youth Enterprise: business planning and entrepreneurial skills.



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Profiling/monitoring

- Assessments
- Attendance monitoring
- Attendance Secretary: to track attendance and to encourage punctual and regular attendance by students
- Drawing up Individual Education Programmes (IEPs)
- Performance indicator form
- Psychological assessments

Parental involvement

- Delivering parent talks
- Family support
- Home visitations
- Parent in-school support: programmes and events for parents to increase their involvement in school life

Rewards

- Awards/incentives: To reward good behaviour, attendance and positive school participation
- Attendance at Awards Scheme
- Field trips: part of reward system, to enhance classroom learning, to develop school and class spirit

Interagency work

- Meeting Family Support Worker
- Meeting with Home, School, Community Liaison Officer (HSCL)
- Work with Access agencies
- Work with Social Workers
- Work with Counsellors
- Liaising with Education Welfare Officers

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Support Units

- Learning Support Unit
- Psychological Support Service
- Support for Asperger's Unit
- Support for Special Behavioural Unit

Other supports

- Buddy system: a mentoring programme that provides training for more senior students to become a buddy or mentor to a more junior target student
- Co-operative games
- Co-ordination of in school supports
- Forum for Speakers on Social Issues: topics such as eating disorders, teen pregnancy, drug abuse etc.
- Language Interpreter: to improve communication between home and school among international families
- Networking
- Meeting with first years
- Positive discipline
- Primary school counselling
- Primary school guidance
- Primary school P.E.
- Rainbow Bereavement Counselling: Voluntary agency that offers bereavement counselling to young people
- Time to Count (Volunteers from Bank)
- Transport to and from School
- Traveller lunch vouchers
- Traveller mentoring



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AFTER SCHOOL SUPPORTS

After school supports are delivered after school hours. They are frequently delivered in conjunction with other agencies and often focus on the personal and social development of young people. After school supports are directed to targeted young people at risk of early school leaving but a whole-school approach is also utilised.

After school supports are categorised under the following headings: clubs; programmes/projects; activities; groups; therapeutic supports; parental supports; interagency supports and other supports.

Clubs

- Dads + Lads computer club: To improve computer literacy and the development of son/father relationships
- Activity clubs
- Adapt youth club: To enable young people to improve their participation and maintain their involvement in the educational system
- After school club
- Athletics club
- Camogie club: to provide camogie coaching for girls in primary school
- Club Osraí: To enhance social and linguistic skills and to promote a positive attitude to Irish language and culture
- Computer club
- Early Bird Club
- Film clubs
- Football clubs
- Girl's club

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- Homework club (with food): to support target students who need help with homework and have difficulty keeping up
- Horticulture clubs
- Infant club: To develop social, behavioural and educational skills for junior infants target students
- Little Steps Club: to train and develop parents as educators. Parenting skills around homework.
- Music clubs (with and without parents)
- Pool club
- Puppetry and Performing Arts Club
- Science club
- Sports Club
- Study Club
- Swimming club: teamwork and confidence through school and interclub competition. Introduction to lifesaving skills
- Video Club
- Wednesday club: Each session comprises a number of different activities
- Young women's club
- Youth clubs
- Socialisation clubs: extra-curricular activities to boost social and personal development in young people

Programmes/projects

- Arts Programme
- Civic Link Programme: to raise awareness of community issues relating to young people



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- Copping On Programme: To encourage young people to explore the rights and wrongs, consequences and responsibilities of engaging in criminal behaviour
- Drug Education project: awareness of strategies for coping with substance abuse
- Family Therapy programme: Offers therapeutic support to the whole family
- Garter Lane 'me, myself & I' project: Art project that included young people doing self-portraits and included an exhibition
- Incredible years programme: Offers emotional and behavioural support to children and young people
- Junior Cert Guidance programme
- Meitheal Programme: Mentoring programme based on the Meitheal model of good practice
- Music programme: to nurture an interest in music, develop skills in retaining structured information, confidence to perform in public
- Pass programme: Exam help at 2nd level
- PULSE dance programme: A collaborative dance initiative
- Transfer programme: to benefit targeted students transfer to second level. To impact positively on the at risk student. To ease the student into new environments and to offer a strong personal welcome.
- Youth For a Local Development Programme: for to prepare young people to work with local community groups
- Sports 4 Success: To develop social, personal, team building and sporting skills
- Stepping Over to Secondary (SOS): To allow pupils to discuss their fears and worries about transferring to secondary
- Millennium Access Initiative: a collaboration between Waterford Institute of Technology and Waterford SCP

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Activities

- 'Soul sound' singing
- Arts & crafts
- Pre-school basketball
- Computers
- Creative dance
- Drama
- French
- Gardening
- Gospel Choir
- Hip-hop dancing
- Orienteering
- Canoeing
- Kids Opera
- Making a film
- Music
- Rugby
- Soccer
- Table Tennis
- Tin Whistle
- Volleyball
- Trips
- Carpentry
- Theatre
- Board games
- Bowling
- Cookery classes
- Cricket
- Fishing
- GAA
- Girls Soccer
- Guitar classes
- Horse riding
- Abseiling
- Hurling
- Maintenance- computer/electronics
- Mural painting
- CD production
- Samba band
- Speech and drama
- Tennis
- T-shirt designing
- Woodturning
- Cultural Activities

Groups

- Equine groups
- Support group for exam students
- Women's development group (parents of targeted kids)
- Work with community development groups



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- Young women's group link with Youth Services
- Self-awareness peer group
- Traveller workshops

Therapeutic supports

- Counselling
- Johansen Sound Therapy: Improving pupils' concentration and understanding through sound
- Music therapy
- Psychological assessment
- Reading therapy: to help pupils overcome reading difficulties
- Rainbows: Voluntary agency that offers bereavement counselling to young people
- Art Therapy

Parental support

- 'Read to Succeed' course for parents: to support parents in monitoring homework and give them an incentive to take a closer interest in their child's education and what is going on in school
- Courses/seminars and talks for parents: to enable parents to take a greater interest in their children
- Parent support (no Home School Community Liason)
- Parent to parent computer training
- Parent training in homework support
- Parent counselling- strategies for dealing with kids
- Parenting evening
- Individual support in homes

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Interagency support

- Links with Youth Services
- Links with St. Vincent de Paul
- Irish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children (ISPCC) support
- Comhairle na nÓg: Local Youth Committees facilitated by City and County Development Boards

Other supports

- After school tuition
- Alternative homework/sporting evening: To promote a holistic mix of commitment to homework- team playing through sport and socialising through having a meal
- Co-operative games
- Cross/Intercultural days: to promote cross/intercultural links
- Dun Laoghaire, Rathdown, Afterschool Fun through Sports: To develop sporting skills, healthy eating, and learn how to live healthily
- Drop in service: to offer a safe environment where students can interact with SCP staff after school
- Environmental days
- Fun to Learn (UL): Homework/Maths/English support and games in University of Limerick
- Life skills
- Maths support
- Meal provision
- Primary movement: the pupil will overcome difficulties encountered through missing out on essential developmental stages
- Student Support Officer: available to students and parents outside of school hours
- Supervised study



HOLIDAY SUPPORTS

Holiday supports are delivered during holiday time, for example, mid-term break, Easter and summer holidays. Holiday supports are provided to young people at risk of leaving school early in order to provide a consistent educational experience for them all year round. Holiday supports are often delivered in conjunction with other external agencies, particularly youth services.

Holiday supports are categorised under the following headings: programmes/projects; camps/schools; activities and other supports.

Programmes/Projects

- Arts Programme
- Easter Revision Programmes: target students take part in Easter revision programmes in Carlow IT and Maynooth NUI
- Reading and Maths Programme: regular lessons during the Summer for target students
- Return to School programme
- Self-esteem programme: to improve self-esteem and maintain contact with school during Summer
- Stepping Over to Secondary transition programme in conjunction with youth services
- Summer Outward Bound Programme: Outward Bound trips to include a mixture of cultural and sporting activities to include indoor and outdoor climbing, abseiling, kayaking, swimming, surfing and rock climbing
- Transfer programmes for incoming first years: familiarisation days and week-long programmes in second level school to smooth transition to a new school
- Youth Services programmes

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- Teenage Youth Project: to promote teamwork and awareness of issues relevant to the group

Camps/Schools

- Arts Summer Camp: to develop artistic and performance skills
- Baseball camp
- Christmas Sports Camp: a fun camp during Christmas holiday for primary students
- Easter camps: Intensive revision for target students especially in exam classes
- Easter Sports and Activity Camps: GAA, Soccer, Athletics, Pottery, Music, Swimming, Computer Club, Drama
- FAI 7 Up Soccer Camp: Week long soccer camp
- February midterm camp
- Fun camps: activities include dance, arts, crafts, music, basketball, free play, art project, style time, rounders, karaoke, games
- GAA, Soccer, Rugby and Tennis Camps: target students are enrolled in locally organised summer camps
- Halloween Camp: costume design and parade party
- Kit-Kat tennis camp
- Residential summer camp: Week long summer camp in outdoor pursuits centre
- Soccer Camp
- Summer Science Camp: in conjunction with Maynooth NUI
- Viking Theme Summer Camp
- Easter Improve Your English School: to provide tuition and social activities for students from other countries
- Language school: aimed at international children in SCP schools
- 'It's a Knockout': Activity-based summer programme



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- Ossory Youth Challenge: to enable students to learn new skills, to receive certification in canoeing, wind surfing, and have completed the physical recreation section of the Gaisce awards
- Tallaght Youth Service: a 'Breakaway' Summer Camp for the over 12 year olds organised in July.
- Lilliput Adventure Centre: To give students a physical and mental challenges away from traditional sports and to help them cope in a different social environment
- Community Football Tournament: Football tournament run over six weeks with emphasis on community involvement, in particular Traveller community participation
- Pathways to Literacy: Pupils develop literacy skills through the medium of Art, Drama, Music, and Sport in a fun way.

Activities

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Arts & Crafts | • Badminton |
| • Bouncing Castle | • Canoeing |
| • Christmas activities | • Computer musicianship |
| • Crazy golf | • Drawing |
| • Discus | • Drama |
| • Drumming | • Easter egg hunts |
| • Egg & Spoon Race | • Film Studies |
| • Fishing | • Fun with fabrics |
| • Gymnastics | • Health & beauty |
| • Horse riding | • Horticulture |
| • How to draw comics | • Javelin |
| • Local geography | • Local history |
| • Long Jump | • Murals |
| • Music and dance workshops | • Parks Tennis |

ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME



- Percussion
- Poster competition
- Running
- Skipping
- Wall hangings
- Web design
- Hopscotch
- Dinghy Sailing, Swimming and Life Guard Skills
- Pole vault
- Rock climbing
- Shot putt
- Treasure trails
- Water sports
- Wildlife studies
- Laketours

Other supports

- Christmas Float
- Cross Border Initiative: interclub football matches
- Festival of Football: Mini World Cup Competitions and football tournaments over a two-week period
- Leadership training for parents: a six-week leadership training programme for parents to enable them to take lead roles in Summer Camp programme.
- Public Examination Support: to prepare and support target students for and during public examinations
- Ready, Steady, Write: literacy support in a fun environment
- Revision Classes/grinds
- Santa's Kingdom
- Street Work: the SCP Co-ordinator makes informal contact with students in their own environment



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OUT OF SCHOOL SUPPORTS

Out of school supports are delivered to young people who have left the formal school system. The aim of these supports is to re-acquaint young people with education and learning and support them in their decision to re-enter the formal education system.

Out of school supports are categorised under the following headings: programmes/clubs; interventions/supports and activities.

Programmes/clubs

- 'Arc Club'- living with Addiction Programme
- Another Chance Club: Classes for young people who have left school to facilitate return to school or sitting of State exams
- Ballymun Educational Support Team School Group: Young people who have dropped out of school are taught in a small group setting with emphasis on personal and social development.
- Family Therapy Programme: Family Therapist to work with the whole family in support of the target student.
- Kilkenny Area Response to Absenteeism (KARA): The aim is to enable early school leavers to return to gain a Junior Cert.
- Parental programme
- Suspension Intervention Programme: Co-operation between school and Justice project providing suitable programme for suspended pupils with view to re-integration to school.
- Youth Horizons Jobstown: Alternative 2nd level school setting for young people who have dropped out of school. Crèche facilities available.

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- Care Level 1: Attendance improvement: All of these are the steps in a support programme run by a psychologist employed part-time by a Project to support young people who have behavioural problems and are often suspended/expelled from school
- Care Level 1: Attitude Change
- Care Level 1: Behaviour modification
- Care Level 1: Self-esteem building
- Care Level 1: Coping with change
- Care Level 2: Access to appropriate services
- Care Level 2: Appropriate placement
- Care Level 2: Behaviour attendance
- Care Level 2: Formal assessment
- Care Level 2: Identification of needs
- Care Level 2: Improved attendance

Interventions/supports

- Advice and information to student and family regarding educational options
- Advocacy for early school leavers
- Contact with the Education Welfare Officer
- Counselling support
- Drop in service
- Education tracking: contact with young person and encouragement and support to return to school
- Home tuition
- Home visits
- Individual Education Plans
- Induction to employment



ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME

- Liaison with schools on behalf of student and family
- One to one tuition
- Psychological support
- Support for students who are long-term ill
- Support for students who are single parents
- Support with transport difficulties
- Links to other services
- Alternative timetable
- Family contact
- Referrals from other agencies

Activities

- Cookery classes
- Education trips
- Health & Fitness
- Horse riding
- Music
- Soccer club (University of Limerick)

ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME



Further information

For more information on any of the supports detailed above, please contact the School Completion Programme Support Unit:

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