



Seirbhís Tacaíochta
Oideachais Tusla
Tusla Education Support Service

School Attendance Summit 2026

Delivering on a child's right to education

Anseo - An Actionable Attendance Tool for Schools

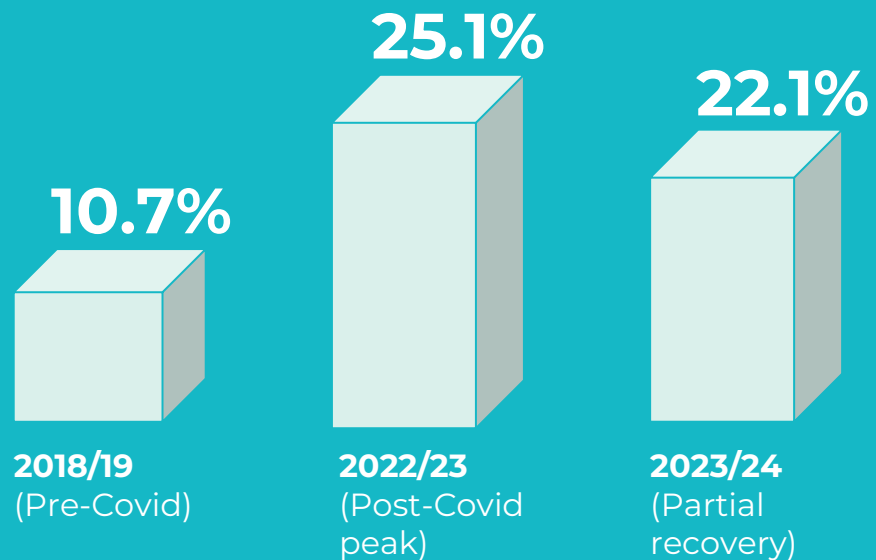
Presenters:

Amanda Cullen - Anseo Implementation Team Lead

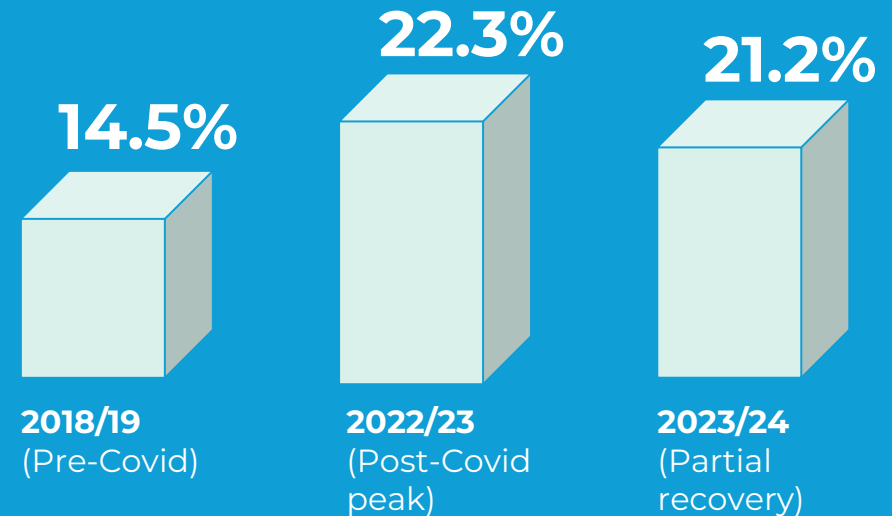
Lisa Kiely - Deputy Principal, Castletroy College

Why Attendance Matters

Primary Schools

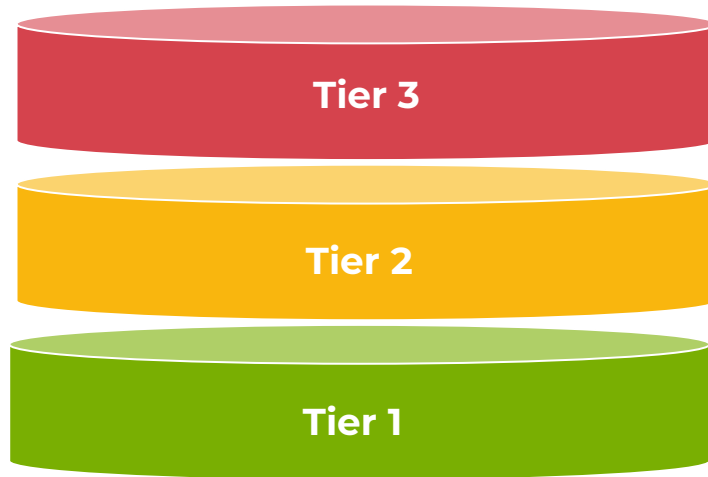


Post-Primary Schools



Source: Tusla Education Support Service - Analysis of School Attendance Data, 2018/19, 2022/23 and 2023/24.

Why Attendance Matters



Tier 3 – Chronic Absenteeism
>10%. Aiming for <5% of School

Tier 2 – Problematic Absenteeism

Between 5 and 10%. Max. 15% of School

Tier 1 – Satisfactory Attendance
<5% absenteeism. Aiming for 80% of school absenteeism

Why Attendance Matters



Built on a foundation of data analysis



OUR ANSEO JOURNEY

Castletroy College

2025–2026

From attendance data to
understanding the “why”



1,350 STUDENTS

110 TEACHERS

15 SNAs

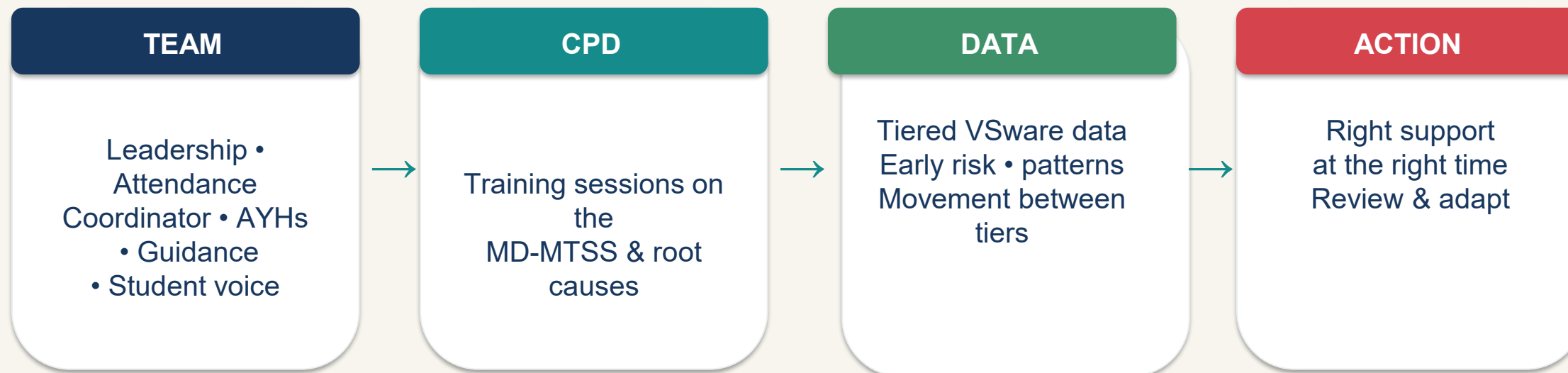
Large LCETB post-primary school • Co. Limerick



Bord Oideachais & Oiliúna
LUIMNIGH & AN CHLÁIR
LIMERICK & CLARE
Education & Training Board

1 BUILD THE TEAM. BUILD THE CAPACITY.

A weekly structure turned attendance from an individual task into shared work.



THE SHIFT

Attendance data stopped being something we simply recorded; it became something we interrogated.

2 FROM DATA TO ACTION

December became our first real test.



DECEMBER
DRIVE

+13.5%

Tier 1 improvement
vs December 2024

TARGET +5%

We saw the dip.

Previous-year data showed December was a chronic attendance month.

We designed for it.

- 13-day challenge
- Tutor + assembly messaging
- Base-class competition + raffle
- Purposeful learning to the end

We measured the result.

A targeted, positive, whole-school intervention improved the number.

3 ONE SIZE DOESN'T FIT ALL

The percentage tells us where to look. The “why” tells us what to do.

MAKING ATTENDANCE VISIBLE

TIER 1 EVERYONE

Culture • tutor time • assemblies
parents • posters • attendance drives

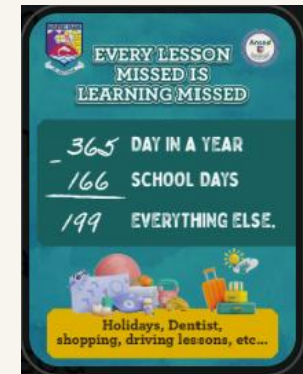
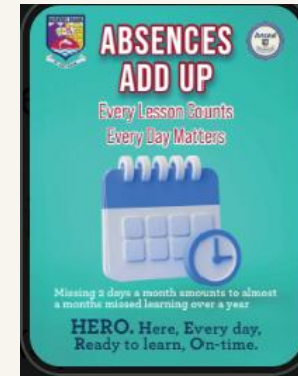
TIER 2 SOME

AYH check-ins • calls home
nudge letters • early intervention

TIER 3 FEW

Individual plans • pastoral/guidance
parent support • multi-agency work

DATA IS THE SCREEN - NOT THE DIAGNOSIS.



4 WHAT WORKED- AND WHAT REMAINS HARD

WHAT WORKED

- ✓ Visibility & consistency
- ✓ Positive, no-blame messaging
- ✓ Whole-school ownership
- ✓ Accurate roll calls
- ✓ Data-informed action
- ✓ Relationships & warm returns

WHAT REMAINS HARD

- Chronic Tier 3 absence
- Anxiety / school/assessment avoidance
- Parental engagement
- Complex family & social factors
- Matching support to root cause
- Time, resources & follow-through

Staff feedback: “structured and planned”, “positive”, “consistent for the year”.



BEYOND THE PERCENTAGE

Our biggest learning from Year 1

WHO

is missing?

WHEN

are they missing?

WHY

are they missing?

WHAT

can we do differently?

The attendance team can lead the work, **but the whole school makes the difference.**

Every member of staff has a vital part to play - noticing, recording, encouraging, connecting and responding.

“It’s great to see you today.”

**ATTENDANCE IS EVERYBODY’S
BUSINESS**





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