

In-career development for Local Co-ordinators and Project Workers is provided at regional and national level. Regional in-service is offered in the regions three times a year:

- Dublin Central
- Dublin West
- Munster South
- Munster West
- North East
- North West
- South Leinster

National in-service is provided to Local Co-ordinators each year. Planning and review meetings are held in each region at the end of the academic year.

## In-career Development



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## Further Information



# Aims and Principles of the School Completion Programme



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The School Completion Programme (SCP) is a Department of Education and Science initiative that aims to have a significant positive impact on levels of pupil retention in primary and post-primary schools and on the number of pupils who successfully complete the Senior Cycle.

The School Completion Programme is a key component of the Department's strategy to discriminate positively in favour of children and young people who are at risk or who are experiencing educational disadvantage.

SCP is integrated into the new School Support Programme, as outlined in the Department's strategy Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS). Each cluster has established a Local Management Committee that develops a retention plan targeting children and young people most at risk of early school leaving.

The main aims of the School Completion Programme are:

- To retain young people in the formal education system to completion of the Senior Cycle, or equivalent.
- To improve the quality of participation and educational attainment of targeted children and young people in the educational process.
- To bring together all relevant local stakeholders (home, school, youth, community, statutory and voluntary) to tackle early school leaving.
- To offer positive supports in primary and post-primary schools towards the prevention of educational disadvantage.
- To encourage young people who have left mainstream education to return to school.
- To influence in a positive way policies relating to the prevention of early school leaving in the education system.

## Background



## Aims



The School Completion Programme is based on a number of principles:

1. The programme is based on the principle of **partnership**. Schools (primary and post-primary), parents and relevant agencies collaborate formally through Local Management Committees and informally through the Local Co-ordinators.
2. Following an evaluation, SCP will be integrated into the School Support Programme on a phased basis over the five year implementation period as outlined in DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools).
3. The programme is **preventative**. Young people at risk of early school leaving are supported from an early age in recognition that home, school, environmental, social and economic factors influence the patterns of early school leaving.
4. The programme is based on a **bottom-up approach**. Different supports are offered in each cluster, depending on local needs, in recognition of the fact that local factors can influence early school leaving.

## Principles



5. The young person's inclusion in the programme is based on an **agreed set of criteria** targeting those most at risk of early school leaving.
6. A **"whole school"** approach can be utilised in order to minimise the potential stigmatisation of young people at risk of early school leaving.
7. Supports are offered in-school, after-school, out-of-school and during holiday time in recognition of the fact that **continuous support** must be given to young people at risk of early school leaving.
8. **Breaking the pattern** of early school leaving and educational disadvantage is key to the programme.

A National Co-ordinator and four Assistant National Co-ordinators advise on and support the development of the Programme, liaise with Local Co-ordinators and other stakeholders at a local level and provide the link between local and national level.

A Research & Development Officer and two Administrators also offer support to the Programme.

## Principles



## Support Service

