



*Dilseacht don Fhíor agus don Díchas*

Scoil Ailbhe Naofa

St. Ailbe's School

Policy Document

On

Disadvantage

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## **Introduction**

### **Mission Statement:**

St. Ailbe's School is a Co-Educational Post Primary under the trusteeship of the South Tipperary Vocational Educational Committee, Administration Offices, Western Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.

Tel: 052 21067

Our mission statement is as follows:

- To provide quality education that meets the actual needs of young people in the best quality learning environment, creating an atmosphere of trust and confidence between students, parents, and staff which enhances self-esteem and self worth.
- To help all pupils reach their full potential in all areas of life, moral, Academic, social and vocational, recognising that there is no single standard that applies to all.
- To help pupils grow in confidence with a positive outlook on life and with the due consideration for others and for property.

### **Characteristic Spirit of St. Ailbe's School**

This policy reflects the ethos of St. Ailbe's School which has inherited a commitment:

"To learn to think independently, to tolerate and value diversity, by fostering an atmosphere of respect, understanding, and encouragement between all who teach, work and learn in St. Ailbe's School."

## **Policy on Disadvantage**

To ensure that each student, regardless of personal circumstances receives equal opportunity St. Ailbe's School has evolved a code of practice that ensures that the student receives a quality education.

**First Years:** Shortly after St. Ailbe's School holds their Open Night for incoming First Years, usually around February of their Sixth Class, the students sit an entrance exam. As a result of this entrance exam strengths and weaknesses of students are highlighted and reports and assessments are presented to St. Ailbe's School Learning Support Team.

Communication between the Principal, St. Ailbe's Learning Support Team and parents/guardians takes place.

During May the Learning Support Team prepare individual learning plans. Psychological Assessments, feedback from National/Primary Schools, feedback from HSCL visiting incoming parents form the core of each Learning Plan. These plans set achievable outcomes for Subject Teachers, Resource Teachers, SNA's and the School Completion Programme personnel to work on during the First Term and are updated during each school term thereafter

Parents/guardians are briefed on the services available in St. Ailbe's School.

**Induction Day** – an induction day takes place the first day back after our summer vacations. This day starts by meeting the parent/guardians on a one to one basis with their child. First Year Head Ms Landers and the relevant class teacher go through all the aspects of school life. This enables the parent/guardian to put a face on the teachers responsible for their child's welfare, it also help the child to get to know who will be dealing with their queries throughout first year. The child is made welcome and they know that this support is available throughout their years in St. Ailbe's School.

This informal meeting affords parents/guardians an opportunity to meet with subject teachers and discuss any issues that may be of concern to them. Ms. Noreen Ryan,

Home School Community Liaison Officer visits parents on a regular basis, ensuring regular communication.

**Testing:** Group screening tests are administered by our Learning Support Team (Mr. J. Kelly Attendance Officer, Ms. N. Ryan HSCL, Ms D. Clifford Remedial Teacher, and Mr. T. Nolan SCP Coordinator). Areas tested are Reasoning ability, Reading, Comprehension, Spelling and Numeracy.

Based on results further diagnostic testing is administered. The National Educational Psychological Services (NEPS) Scheme provides psychological assessments throughout the year and in extreme hardship the school may fund private assessments.

Relevant teachers are made aware of the results of these assessments and in ways which may help students to cope better in class.

**Resource Hours:** The school endorses social and educational inclusion. To this end resource hours are allocated to allow small class groups for the core subjects.

Special Need Assistants are available to the relevant students. The Principal/Learning Support Team maintain contact with Ms Aishling Bacon , SENO South Tipperary to ensure that the school receives the maximum allocation of resource hours.

Under extenuating circumstances one to one teaching maybe offered.

The School Completion Programme Team offer various programmes to ensure student remain in school.

**Teaching Resources.** There is now a PC in every room in the school as well as have 3 fully equipped dedicated computer rooms. Quite a number of class rooms have data-projectors installed with access to broadband internet.

- Computer Software
- Mathematical Aids, equipment
- Suitable reading material in schools library.

Homelearning Club: is run four evenings a week by our School Completion Programme Team. It is supervised study and students get to take part in activity for half the time.

Lunchtime Activities: Music, Sport and other activities are also provided each day.

Guidance Counselling: A Guidance and Counselling Service is available throughout the year.

The Chaplin, Fr. Kennedy, appointed to the school visits on a regular basis.

### **Second Year:**

The services provided in first year are continued in second year.

### **Third Year:**

Vocational Preparation/Guidance on options available for post Junior Cert. Application is made to D.E.S. for special accommodation for students requiring reader/scribe/exemptions in Junior Cert Examinations.

Information Evening for parents of 3<sup>rd</sup> year students, outlining the options available at Senior Cycle – Fourth Year, Leaving Cert, or L.C.A.

### **Senior Cycle:**

The school offers Fourth Year, Leaving Cert, and Leaving Cert Applied.

- A co-ordinator has been appointed specifically to manage the L.C.A. programme.
- Application is made to D.E.S. for students requiring extra help in the State Examinations.
- The school is part of the DEIS Programme.

### **Additional Comments:**

- Ms N. Ryan, Mr. T. Nolan liaise with relevant outside agencies: Health Services, Social Workers, Barnardo's
- Visiting Teacher, Attendance officers
- Gardai

**Parental Involvement:** St. Ailbe's School believes in involving all parents in the educational process – both for the themselves and their children. The following initiatives have been implemented.

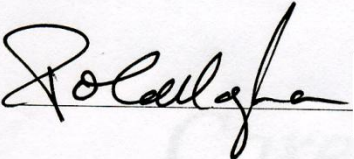
Our HSCL coordinator has put the following programmes in place to help in getting parents/guardians involved in St. Ailbe's School.

- Parents towards partnership.  
A group of parents have been trained to act as a support network for other parents.
- Social Skills Programme: The parents are actively involved with this programme.
- Parents in Education.(PiE)

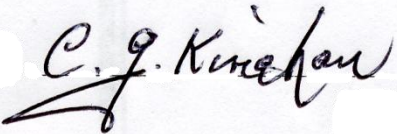
This Policy was ratified by St. Ailbe's School Board of Management on Tuesday October 21<sup>st</sup> 2008.

This Policy will be reviewed on May 2010.

Signed:



Mr. P.O'Callaghan (Principal)



Mr.C. Kinihan (Chairman B.O.M.)