

## **Attendance Campaign Support Grant for Schools in the Free Education Scheme**

### **1. Introduction**

The Attendance Campaign Support Grant is a once-off payment to promote regular school attendance of children and young people in schools, especially those from groups at risk of educational disadvantage, and those who may have been impacted by the disruption to school-based education during COVID-19.

### **2. Main features of the Grant**

Schools are best placed to understand the needs of their own community and identify how best to address those needs at a local level. Therefore, this funding is being provided directly to schools to allow the flexibility of utilising the funding to best suit locally identified needs of the most at-risk children and young people and developing strategies and targeted measures to improve overall levels of school attendance.

Schools are encouraged to cluster locally and work together to gain maximum benefit from the grant.

In considering how best to promote attendance, it is important that schools begin by gathering accurate data on the attendance levels of children and young people, with a particular focus on those most at risk of early school leaving.

Once the attendance data has been gathered and analysed, schools should devise clear targets and interventions designed to bring about improvements in attendance levels, particularly of attendance levels of children and young people whose attendance levels are a cause of concern.

Root causes for these trends should be probed through engagement with families and other stakeholders. Based on these insights, schools should develop targeted interventions, such as awareness campaigns or partnership programs with parents. These interventions should be integrated into the school's DEIS Action Plan for Improvement or School Self Evaluation Plan and monitored for effectiveness. Non Deis schools should ensure that the use of the grant supports the targets for improvement set out in their school improvement plan.

In considering appropriate interventions, it is critical that schools see promoting attendance as centrally linked to:

- School culture and environment.
- The quality of relationships between children and young people and their peers and between children and young people and school staff.
- The extent to which children and young people find classroom experiences engaging, interesting and relevant.
- The extent to which children and young people experience success in their learning.
- The extent to which children and young people experience high-quality and inclusive teaching and learning.
- The quality of the links between home and school.

**In general, therefore, this grant should be used to support the implementation of initiatives that will focus on one or more of the elements above and that have already proven successful in engaging children and young people in meaningful, challenging learning activities.**

Schools have the flexibility to utilise this one-time grant allocation either within the current academic year or to roll it over for up to three years, aligning with longer-term planning cycles.

### **3. Financial Oversight**

The grant income and expenditure should be recorded appropriately in the school's accounts. There is no new grant income code required to be added to the chart of accounts. The grant receipt can be recorded under nominal code 3290 Other Non-Capital DE Grant Income.

There is no new expenditure code required to be added to the chart of accounts. The expenditure can be recorded to the appropriate existing nominal account, for example 4635 Student Wellbeing Expense, 4770 Trophies and Prizes Expense, 1421 Capital Fixture Fitting and Equipment etc.

It is recommended that you create a 'Department' in the school's accounts package for this grant.

Any unspent amount must be included in the balance sheet at the year-end under the account code 2171 Other ring-fenced grants unspent.

#### **4. Queries**

Please note that detailed guidance to support the effective use of this grant will be issued by the Department of Education in the coming days.

Any queries in relation to the Attendance Campaign Support Grant should be emailed to [social\\_inclusion@education.gov.ie](mailto:social_inclusion@education.gov.ie)

Tel 01 269 0677

[info@fssu.ie](mailto:info@fssu.ie)

*17th October 2023*

## **Deontas Taca don Fheachtas Tinrimh do Scoileanna sa Scéim Oideachais Saor in Aisce**

### **1. Réamhrá**

Is íocaíocht aonuaire é an Deontas Taca don Fheachtas Tinrimh chun tinreamh rialta leanaí agus daoine óga ar scoileanna a chur chun cinn, go háirithe iad siúd ó ghrúpaí atá i mbaol míbhuntáiste oideachais, agus iad siúd a raibh drochthionchar ag an gcur isteach ar oideachas scoilbhunaithe orthu le linn COVID 19.

### **2. Príomhghnéithe an Deontais**

Is iad na scoileanna atá in ann riachtanais a bpobail féin a thuiscint agus conas is fearr aghaidh a thabhairt ar na riachtanais sin ag leibhéal áitiúil a aithint. Mar sin, tá an maoiniú seo á chur ar fáil go díreach do scoileanna, chun solúbthacht maidir le húsáid an mhaoinithe a cheadú acu chun freastal ar riachtanais aitheanta go háitiúil do na leanaí agus na daoine óga is mó i mbaol, agus straitéisí agus bearta spriocdhírithé a fhorbairt chun leibhéal ginearálta tinrimh scoile a fheabhsú.

Spreagtar scoileanna teacht le chéile go háitiúil agus oibriú le chéile chun an leas is mó a bhaint as an deontas.

Agus breithniú á dhéanamh ar an gcaoi is fearr le tinreamh a chur chun cinn, tá sé tábhachtach go dtosódh scoileanna ag bailiú sonraí cruinne ar leibhéal tinrimh leanaí agus daoine óga, le fócas ar leith orthu siúd is mó atá i mbaol luathfhágáil na luath.

Nuair a bheidh na sonraí tinrimh bailithe agus anailís déanta orthu, ba chóir do scoileanna spriocanna agus idirghabhálacha soiléire a cheapadh chun feabhas a chur ar leibhéal tinrimh, go háirithe leibhéal tinrimh leanaí agus daoine óga a bhfuil a leibhéal tinrimh ina n-ábhar inní.

Ba cheart bunchúiseanna na dtreochtaí seo a fhiosrú trí rannpháirtíocht le teaghlaigh agus le páirtithe leasmhara eile. Bunaithe ar na léargais seo, ba cheart do scoileanna idirghabhálacha spriocdhírithé a fhorbairt, mar fheachtas feasachta nó clár chomhpháirtíochta le tuismitheoirí. Ba chóir na hidirghabhálacha seo a chomhtháthú i bPlean Gníomhaíochta DEIS um Fheabhsú nó Plean Féinmheastóireachta na Scoile agus monatóireacht a dhéanamh orthu maidir le héifeachtacht. Ba cheart do scoileanna neamh-DEIS a chinntiú go dtacaíonn úsáid an deontais leis na spriocanna feabhsúcháin atá leagtha amach ina bplean feabhsúcháin scoile.

Agus idirghabhálacha oiriúnacha á mbreithniú, tá sé ríthábhachtach go bhfeicfeadh

scoileanna go bhfuil baint lárnach ag cur chun cinn an tinrimh le:

- Cultúr agus timpeallacht na scoile.
- Cáilíocht na gcaidreamh idir leanaí agus daoine óga agus a bpiaraí agus idir leanaí agus daoine óga agus foireann na scoile.
- A mhéid is a bhíonn eispéiris seomra ranga tarraingteach, suimiúil agus ábhartha do leanaí agus do dhaoine óga.
- A mhéid is a éiríonn go maith le leanaí agus daoine óga ina gcuid foghlama.
- A mhéad a fhaigheann leanaí agus daoine óga taithí ar theagasc agus ar fhoghlaim atá ar ardchaighdeán agus ionchuimsitheach.
- Cáilíocht na nasc idir an baile agus an scoil.

**Go ginearálta, mar sin, ba cheart an deontas seo a úsáid chun tacú le cur i bhfeidhm tionscnamh a dhíreoidh ar cheann amháin nó níos mó de na heilimintí thuas agus ar éirigh leo cheana féin chun leanaí agus daoine óga a tharraingt ar ghníomhaíochtaí foghlama dúshlánacha a bhfuil fiúntas leo.**

Tá solúbthacht ag scoileanna úsáid a bhaint as an leithdháileadh deontais aonuaire seo laistigh den bhliain acadúil reatha nó é a thar-rolladh suas le trí bliana, ag teacht le timthriallta pleanála níos fadtéarmaí.

### **3. Maoirseacht Airgeadais**

Ba cheart ioncam agus caiteachas an deontais a thaifeadh mar is cuí i gcuntais na scoile. Níl aon chód ioncaim deontais nua ag teastáil le cur leis an gcairt cuntas. Is féidir admháil an deontais a thaifeadh faoi chód ainmniúil 3290 Ioncam Deontais Neamhchaipitil Eile ón RO.

Níl aon chód caiteachais nua ag teastáil le cur leis an gcairt cuntas. Is féidir an caiteachas a thaifeadh leis an gcuntas ainmniúil cuí reatha, mar shampla 4635 Costas Folláine Mac Léinn, 4770 Costas Trófaí agus Duaiseanna, 1421 Feisteas agus Trealamh Caipitil Daingneáin srl.

Moltar ‘Rannóg’ a chruthú i bpacáiste cuntais na scoile don deontas seo.

Caithfear aon mhéid nár caitheamh a chur san áireamh sa chlár comhardaithe ag deireadh na bliana faoin gcód cuntais 2171 Deontais imfhálaithe eile nár caitheadh.

### **4. Fiosruithe**

Tabhair faoi deara le do thoil go n-eiseoidh an Roinn Oideachais treoir mhionsonraithe chun tacú le húsáid éifeachtach an deontais seo sna laethanta amach romhainn.

Ba cheart aon cheisteanna maidir leis an Deontas Taca don Fheachtas Tinrimh a chur ar ríomhphost chuig [social\\_inclusion@education.gov.ie](mailto:social_inclusion@education.gov.ie)

Fón 01 269 0677

[info@fssu.ie](mailto:info@fssu.ie)

*17 Deireadh Fómhair 2023*