

St Aidan's Community College

Junior Cert Schools Programme Policy

The Junior Cert Schools Programme is a national programme devised by the DES and NCCA. It supplements the current Junior Cert programme

"The JCSP is aimed at students at risk of early school leaving but has also been found useful in addressing other educational needs. The programme offers schools and teachers a flexible approach to teaching and learning in the context of the junior cycle curriculum. "NCCA

Rationale for JCSP Programme

- A curriculum framework that allows students' access to JC, those who may be at risk of early school leaving or has a special educational need
- JCSP helps students to experience success and to support positive self-esteem.
- On completion of the programme students receive a profile which is a record of their success and achievement from the DES.
- JCSP main focus is the support of numeracy and literacy in teaching and learning in the classroom.
- The programme places emphasis on active teaching and learning and on the development of basic skills.
- Subject based statements and cross curricular statements are used to support teaching and learning in the classroom.

Selection Process

Students are selected for JCSP considering the following criteria.

Selection Criteria:

- Failure to engage with learning in primary school
- Low self-esteem, lack of confidence
- History of absenteeism.
- Poor engagement in the school process.
- Risk of school leaver.
- Difficult personal/family circumstances.
- Difficulties in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

Selection Committee:

The selection of JCSP students is undertaken by the:

- HSCL Teacher
- SEN Co-ordinator
- JCSP Co – ordinator
- BFL Support
- Deputy Principal

The final JCSP selection is distributed to relevant staff members

Organisation of JCSP.

JCSP students will be placed in mixed ability classes and are targeted with supports and added resources as required. Student are engaged in the JCSP programme in a select number of subjects depending on the needs of the student.

Curriculum Provision

Access focus through English, Maths, Geography, Metalwork, Woodwork, Home Economics, Art CSPE and Learning Support groupings.

Initiatives are selected and planned on the individual involvement of staff.

Profiling.

Profiling meeting takes place in April attended by the Core JCSP Team. Their role is to confirm and ratify the statements and reference for individual students.

Subject Statements are undertaken by teachers across a wide range of subjects and are used by teachers

1. To form a framework for teaching a topic or as
2. An evaluation or self-appraisal for students, of the quality and quantity of work completed.

Cross-curricular statements are used by class teachers and Learning Support teachers as a motivational and appraisal tool.

Programme Co-ordination and Development

The JCSP Co-ordinator is allocated hours from the Co-ordinator allocation.

JCSP Co-ordinator – Eamon Breen

SEN Co-ordinator – Sinead Flanagan

HSCL Teacher – Kay Kelleher

BFL Support – Jodi Furlong

Teaching Team

As JCSP students are mixed ability, a large number of teachers are involved in profiling.

As many as 9 teachers/staff are involved directly in JCSP initiatives.

Induction of New Teaching staff

New teachers are inducted briefly by the Co-ordinator.

Student Folders

Students folders are held in the BFL support room and compiled by JCSP Co-ordinator, the folders are available to teachers to profile as required .

Involvement in JCSP Initiatives

Emphasis through JCSP this year is on Literacy, in collaboration with Numeracy& Literacy Strategy and the DEIS Plan.

JCSP Core Team discuss and decide on initiative selection.

Initiative application is submitted by the JCSP coordinator and Evaluation of initiative is completed by lead teachers.

Initiatives include but are not restricted To:

DEAR

Book Review

Paired Maths

Paired reading

Key Words

Christmas Celebration

JCSP Resources

JCSP Co-ordinator orders resources three times a year.

Co-ordinator targets a sample medley of subject specific resources to teachers. Relevant teachers order, through co-ordinator, the resources they want to use.

Parental Involvement

Participation from HSCL target group is encouraged.

JCSP postcards have also been used.

JCSP Celebration

Celebrations will take place in December and May.

Evaluation of the Programme

The Core JCSP Team meets in May to evaluate the relevance and value of initiatives and profiling for that current year. Recommendations are taken on board for the coming year

Ratified at BOM meeting 10th February 2020

____ E. Breen _____
Chairperson BOM

Date: ____10/02/2020____