

Comeragh College

Junior Cert Schools Programme

School Policy

The Junior Cert Schools Programme is a national programme sponsored by the DES and NCCA. It supplements the current Junior Cert. programme and is based on the concept that all young people are capable of achieving success in school.

In September 1996, following a pilot phase, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and the Department of Education and Science (DES) launched the *Junior Certificate School Programme*. Since its introduction the programme has expanded from 32 schools in 1996 to 240 schools in 2010. The programme has expanded on a phased basis, to all post-primary schools participating in the *Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools* (DEIS) initiative.

Rationale for JCSP Programme

- JCSP helps students to experience success and to support positive self-esteem and well-being. This will enable students to reach their potential and achieve their goals academically, socially and emotionally by providing a vast array of subject choice and also core programmes to enhance the social and emotional development of each individual student.
- 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.
- Subject based statements are used to support teaching and learning in the classroom. Subject Co-ordinators are to include statements in their subject plans.
- Students will develop academically, socially and personally as a result of participation in JCSP activities/initiatives. These vary from year to year.
- Through participation in JCSP, students will develop confidence and motivation to improve participation and performance levels while experiencing success.
- As confidence and motivation improves, Attainment will also improve. This data will be gathered by a sample of 1st and 2nd year students who will be tracked.

Aims and Objectives

We aim to provide an **intervention programme** that is positive and effective in providing support for students, parents and staff and that will be dynamic and flexible in order to change, develop and adapt according to the needs of the student. Intervention programmes from the code of positive behaviour may be implemented here. The JCSP will further develop a positive attitude to learning and life in school. JCSP students will engage with the well-being team.

JCSP will support participating students who may be having difficulty engaging productively with the Junior Certificate Programme.

Selection Process

- Members of the Student Support team will agree a group of students for the JCSP as per guidelines from the JCSP.

Selection Committee

The JCSP in Comeragh College is part of the student support programme and the student support team plan and support the implementation of the JCSP with the JCSP Co-ordinator.

Curriculum Provision

Curriculum will be delivered through the main stream timetable. Subject departments with the support of the JCSP Co-ordinator will plan accordingly to meet the needs of the students using JCSP resources and initiatives. The JCSP students are supported by the SEN provision. The Student support team advise on timetabling needs of students. The JCSP is embedded in the DEIS plan.

Initiatives

JCSP initiatives are made available to School's each September. The JCSP Co-ordinator forwards these initiatives to each subject department. Each department then puts a proposal forward for an initiative that will suit there subject area. The Co-ordinator with the student support team agree a final list of initiatives to be applied for. School's receive funding in November. The iniative must be completed before April and evaluated.

JCSP support for reaching targets of DEIS Plan

Literacy and Numeracy targets will be set using Reading and Maths Age data, which is gleaned from entrance tests as well as annual testing, required for pre/post initiative evaluations. All JCSP initiatives will have as a main objective, improvements in the literacy and numeracy levels of our students.

Through the evaluations of JCSP initiatives, effects on attendance will be addressed. The attendance of all JCSP students will be monitored on a regular basis by the Co-Ordinator and the H.S.C.L. Students will be rewarded for excellent and improved attendance.

Through participation in JCSP Programmes and profiling of students in 3rd year, encouragement is given to all students to complete their Junior Certificate Examinations successfully and so improve progression throughout the Junior Cycle and retention rates to Senior Cycle and beyond.

Introduction of students to the JCSP Programme in 1st Year along with successful participation in JCSP initiatives and activities are hugely dependant on parental/guardian support. Partnership with parents/guardians is fostered and encouraged through all JCSP activities.

Engagement and Partnership with the community takes place through advertising projects, initiatives and accomplishments in local press and parish newsletters.

Organisation of the Programme

Meetings of this Student Support team will take place on a regular basis, throughout the school year. The JCSP Co-ordinator is a member of the student support team. Co-ordination hours are to be distributed from the principal to facilitate these meetings.

The Microsoft 365 School platform is used for communication with Teachers, eg meeting, chat, files, CPD.

Subject statements will all be recorded on the 365 platform.

Support will be given to teachers in the process of completing and tracking statements along with Final Profiling in 3rd Year.

Subject Statement Profile Folders/Journals will be kept in the school for use by teachers and students when required.

Teaching Team

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

Provision of opportunities of in-service training for staff both within and outside the school will be encouraged.

Profiling

Teachers in conjunction with their subject departments will select the subject statements to be taken by their students.

Teachers are encouraged to complete the statements with their students within the classroom on a regular basis.

Completion of Subject Statements in this way can occur in conjunction with formal and informal assessments of the students and so enhance assessment for learning of the students.

Profiling of 3rd Year students will take place in Term 3 with the class teachers and the JCSP Coordinator facilitating the submission of subject and cross-curricular statements to JCSP National Headquarters.

A Final Profile Celebration will take place later in Term 3 where students will be awarded their 'Junior Certificate School Programme Student Profile'. This will include Certification of participation in JCSP by Department of Education and Skills, a list of all statements achieved and an individual school reference.

JCSP Celebration:

Celebrations will take place in December and May.

JCSP Resources

JCSP Co-ordinator orders resources twice 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. Generic strategic resources are displayed in staffroom, reminders are posted on staff notice board. Electronic versions are posted on 'staff public' server.

Parental Involvement

Parents are invited to celebrations in December and May in conjunction with HSCL teacher. Participation from HSCL target group is encouraged.

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 onboard for the coming year.

