



Circular 0005/2007

To: The Management Authorities of the School named in the Address

Expansion of the Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) under DEIS

1. The Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) was introduced in September 1996 as an intervention within the Junior Certificate specifically aimed at students who are potential early school leavers. It is designed to assist schools and individual teachers in adopting a student-centred approach to education and to provide students with a programme to meet their individual needs. There are currently 176 schools/centres offering the Programme.
2. The DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) Action Plan for Educational Inclusion provides for extended access to the JCSP for second-level schools with the highest concentrations of disadvantage.
3. The Department of Education and Science has decided to extend the Programme, on a phased basis over the next three school years, to those schools which are participating in DEIS. The first phase will commence in September 2007 with an additional 30 schools selected to offer the Programme. It is intended that all DEIS schools will be approved to offer JCSP by 2010. Selection of schools for each phase (30 per year) will be on the basis of level of disadvantage and stated year of preference for offering the Programme.
4. Schools wishing to offer JCSP are requested to complete the attached application form and return it to the Department. The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 27th April 2007**.
5. Schools approved for participation in JCSP will be restricted to a maximum intake of 45 approved places in each of the first three school years.
6. Schools will receive an improved teacher allocation. This allocation will be at the rate of 0.25 whole-time teacher equivalent (WTE) per group of 45 students participating in JCSP and will be applied in the following manner –

Students	WTE
45 or fewer	0.25
46 to 90	0.50
91 to 135	0.75

This allocation will normally be made on the basis of the numbers of recognised students enrolled in JCSP on 30th September of the previous school year and who are entered on the "October List" returns. Allocations may be adjusted, where necessary,

to take account of significant fluctuation (increase/decrease) in projected numbers of participating students for the following school year. In any event, the number of students on which this allocation may be based will be limited to the number of JCSP places approved by the Department.

7. A special per capita grant of €63.49 will be made, once only, in respect of each student entering the Programme in schools in the free education scheme. The grant will be paid on the basis of information supplied to the Department on the "October List" returns. In the case of VEC schools, the grant will be paid to the relevant Vocational Education Committee.
8. School authorities are required to ensure that the additional resources allocated for JCSP are used to support the Programme. In particular, the additional teaching resource should be used for co-ordination of the Programme and to facilitate teachers in attendance at student profiling meetings.
9. There are a number of conditions attaching to participation in JCSP and they are set out in the enclosed Information Note for Schools.
10. Participation in in-service is a condition of approval for all new applicants.
11. Student profiling is integral to the delivery of JCSP.
12. An Information Note on the JCSP is enclosed with this Circular. Further information can be found on the JCSP websites www.slss.ie, www.jcsp.ie and www.jcspliteracy.ie. You may also wish to consult [*Building on Success: An Evaluation of the Junior Certificate School Programme*](#) - a report by the Inspectorate of the Department which has already been circulated to schools and which can be accessed on the Department of Education and Science website
13. Professional development support to schools and teachers offering the Programme is provided through the Second Level Support Service (SLSS) by the JCSP support service which is located in the Curriculum Development Unit of the City of Dublin VEC. Enquiries to the support service may be directed to:

The Support Service,
Junior Certificate School Programme,
Curriculum Development Unit,
City of Dublin VEC,
Sundrive Road,
Dublin 12.

Telephone: (01) 453 5487 Fax: (01) 402 0435
Email: jcsp@iol.ie
14. Please bring this Circular to the notice of the teachers concerned.
15. Please also provide a copy of this Circular to the appropriate representatives of parents and teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

Margaret Kelly
Principal Officer
March 2007