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To: Boards of Management/Authorities of Second-Level Schools.

## **M28/96**

Information Note on the **Junior Certificate Elementary Programme**

### **Introduction**

The White Paper on Education, *Charting our Education Future*, indicated that it was intended to introduce an additional Junior Certificate Programme designed to reach out more effectively to a small but important minority of students whose particular needs are not adequately catered for in the present broadly based Junior Certificate.

### **Implementation**

The Minister for Education has approved the introduction of the **Junior Certificate Elementary Programme** which is to be introduced in three phases. The first phase will commence in September 1996 with up to 45 schools delivering the programme. It is intended that the number of participating schools will increase to 80 over the next two phases. The 32 schools which have already participated in the Pilot Phase will be invited to introduce the Junior Certificate Elementary Programme in September 1996.

### **Underlying Principles**

The Junior Certificate Elementary Programme offers an alternative pathway towards the aims and educational standards of the Junior Certificate for students at second level who:

- have serious difficulties with basic skills, including literacy and numeracy, which interfere with their ability to cope with normal demands of school and of everyday life;
- have repeatedly experienced failure during their school career and suffer from lack of confidence and low self-esteem;
- may be at risk of leaving school before the end of the Junior cycle and thereby miss the opportunity of sitting Junior Certificate examinations.

## **Development**

Development work on the programme was carried out by the Curriculum Development Unit of the City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee in consultation with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment and the Department of Education.

## **Support Service**

A support service for schools which will provide information on the Programme and which will assist schools with the implementation of the Programme has been established. The support service is located in the Curriculum Development Unit of the City of Dublin VEC.

Enquiries regarding the programme should be directed to:

### ***The Support Service***

*Junior Certificate Elementary Programme*

*Curriculum Development Unit*

*City of Dublin V.E.C.*

*Sundrive Road*

*Dublin 12*

*Telephone Number: (01) 453 5487*

*Fax Number: (01) 453 7659*

## **Guidelines**

Guidelines for schools have been prepared and a copy is enclosed for information.

A student profiling system, which is an integral part of the programme, is currently in preparation and will be available for the 1996/97 school year.

## **Resources**

In addition to existing resources, the staffing allocation for schools approved to offer the Junior Certificate Elementary Programme will be on the basis of an additional 0.25 of a teaching resource per school.

A special per capita grant of £50 will be made, once only, in respect of each student entering the programme in schools in the free education scheme.

## **Copies of circular**

School authorities are requested to provide a copy of this letter to the parents' and teachers' representatives on the Board of Management, where such exists, or to the parents' association/National Parents' Council representatives or other appropriate representatives of the parents/teachers for transmission to individual parents and teachers.

**Con Haugh**

Principal Officer

09 August 1996