

September 2019

Dear JCSP Co-ordinator

We hope you and your colleagues had a restful break over the summer and we look forward to working with you again this year. As the new academic year commences, the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) would like to inform you of the Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) professional development supports for the year ahead along with a number of relevant updates.

GDPR and JCSP – Register for services

As per our recent email, to comply with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) you are requested to register/confirm your details for JCSP services for the upcoming school year at this link <https://forms.gle/dUCDYbGBYgGWtrvrz> (link also available on the homepage of jcsp.ie)

You will receive an email confirming receipt of your preferences. Existing user logins and passwords will remain the same. New users will receive logins and passwords once the form is submitted.

Existing Accounts will be deleted if no reply is received to the form by the 20th of September 2019.

Autumn 2019 Programme of Professional Development

Autumn In-service 2019

Enclosed is the PDST JCSP Calendar for the period of September to December 2019. Substitute cover is available for all teachers with a confirmed place on our in-service days. You can apply online for all in-service on at this link <http://www.pdst.ie/onlinebooking> (please use a PC or laptop).

Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) and JCSP

JCT are in the process of revising JCSP statements in line with the new Framework for Junior Cycle. To this end, they will be hosting focus days for the different subjects to meet with JCSP teachers to progress the drafting of statements and targets.

Any such dates will be available for booking on the PDST online booking website <http://www.pdst.ie/onlinebooking> (substitution cover available).

We would ask that you bring this focus day to the attention of history teachers in your school:

Contd/...

Focus Day: History – 12th September in Drumcondra Education Centre – please note that as parking may be limited on the day, you are encouraged to use public transport.

For all subjects under JC review this year, please continue to use existing statements until the new draft statements are in place.

Newly Appointed Principals /Deputy Principals/ Co-ordinators

Congratulations and best wishes on your new role! The JCSP has many features (profiling, statements, initiatives, resources, DEIS /SSE planning) which are unique to the programme. We would strongly urge you to register for the in-service day for Co-ordinators, Principals, Deputy Principals, and Teachers new to JCSP, on the 26th of September in the Aspect Hotel Park West, Dublin and on the 27th of September in Limerick Education Centre. Participants are requested to bring a device with them (smart phone, tablet or laptop).

Programme Updates

We would be grateful if you could bring the following updates and resources to the attention of your colleagues. Further information on these and other areas will be provided to co-ordinators at our in-service days.

Ordering Resources – 4 orders per year without mailing/delivery costs

Orders are placed through this website: <https://orders.pnpag.com/Login.aspx> by the JCSP Coordinator (login and password required).

There is no charge for JCSP resources for JCSP students. Four orders will be provided to schools during the 2019-2020 academic year (in addition to the ordering of initiative materials) at no cost. However, additional orders will incur a delivery cost of €30.

Free Membership of the PDST/ JCSP Library Project Digital Library

Membership of the JCSP Library Project Digital Library is free for all JCSP/DEIS schools. Existing member schools will shortly receive an updated set of Digital Library logins which will include a set of logins for incoming 1st Year students. Non-member schools should register at www.jcsp.ie, following which a full set of student and staff logins will be sent out to you.

With over 5,000 e-book and e-audiobook titles in the collection (with multiple copies of many of these), and with new titles being added on a continuous basis, all schools are encouraged to avail of this fantastic free library service.

Initiatives

Please note: you will not be able to submit further evaluations or apply for new initiatives until you confirm/register for JCSP services at as per the GDPR paragraph above form at this link: <https://forms.gle/dUCDYbGBYgGWtrvr7>

Contd/....

Thank you to all those who have submitted their evaluations. If there are any outstanding initiatives, we would ask that evaluations be returned as soon as possible as otherwise this reduces the number of initiatives your school will be able to apply for in the current round.

We would like to remind you that all monies provided for initiatives must be spent on JCSP initiatives and all monies accounted for accordingly. Receipts must be retained in school and be available on request. Any monies not spent on the initiatives must be returned to JCSP. As part of our auditing procedures, we will, as usual, be asking a random sample of schools to provide details and receipts of their expenditure.

We are pleased to inform you that applications are now being accepted online for 2019/2020 JCSP initiatives. Schools are invited to apply for a Christmas Celebration and a maximum of six initiatives in the school year. Applying for an initiative does not guarantee that it will be approved. All applications are subject to budget availability and receipt of outstanding initiative evaluations.

The closing date for receipt of proposal applications is **3pm Thursday the 3rd of October, 2019**. The Initiative Booklet is included with this letter. The Recommended Materials Booklet, which contains details of JCSP resources to be ordered and recommendations based on initiative evaluations from school's experiences is available to view online at www.jcsp.ie.

Initiatives are designed to improve students' engagement or attainment in an area identified by their teachers. It is important that initiatives support identified targets in the school's DEIS or School Improvement Plan (SIP). The initiative proposal and evaluation forms assist schools and co-ordinators in strengthening the link between initiatives and DEIS/School Self-Evaluation Planning.

Please note that:

- **Incomplete proposals cannot be considered.**
- *In order to encourage you to apply for a variety of initiatives, the same initiative cannot not be granted continuously.*
- Initiative funding is awarded based on the quality, clarity and comprehensiveness of the application.
- Applying for an initiative does not guarantee that it will be approved.
- The subvention allocated to each initiative is only an indication of the funding to run the initiative. All initiative grants are budget dependent.
- In relation to Reading Corners, it is not permissible to apply for this initiative 2 years in a row. A top-up grant can be applied for in the year following the granting of a full Reading Corner. There must be a break of 3 years between applications for a further Reading Corner.
- In relation to the following initiatives: Author in Residence, Artist in the Classroom, Reading Medley, Film-making, Handheld Gaming Device or Bodhrán - preference will be given to those schools who have not received the initiative within the last 2 years. You may wish to consider alternative applications.

Resources for initiatives

Following receipt of the letter of approval, you should order the JCSP resources required for running your chosen initiatives. These resources will be delivered free of charge.

Contd/...

Make-a Book

11 regional Make a Book events are scheduled for March 2020 – for your information, dates are set out on the attached inservice calendar. Online registration for schools will open in December 2019.

****Advance Notice** Final Profiling 2020**

The closing date for final profiling will be Thursday the 23rd of April 2020.

Update of school records

We would be much obliged if you would complete the enclosed form (or available online at <https://forms.gle/2fx3YKvuMEcwML5YA> detailing JCSP student numbers and how JCSP is organised in your school.

Once again, sincere thanks for your continued co-operation and for your support of JCSP students.

On behalf of the PDST, I would like to wish you and everybody in your school community a happy and successful academic year.

Yours sincerely



Ciara O' Donnell

National Director PDST

PDST - JCSP Team: Mona Metcalfe (Team Leader), Lorraine Counihan, Louise Kenny, Úna Crowe, Siobhain McCann, Senior Librarian: Kathleen Moran. Administrators: Elaine Flynn, Jill Byrne, Dorota Ruszczak.

**PDST JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME
UPDATE OF SCHOOL RECORDS
ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/2020**

NUMBER OF PUPILS IN JCSP IN EACH YEAR:

1 ST YEAR		2 ND YEAR		3 RD YEAR	
MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

OFFICIAL SCHOOL NAME	
SCHOOL ADDRESS	
EIRCODE	
SCHOOL ROLL NUMBER	
PHONE NO.	

ARE YOU A DEIS SCHOOL? (Yes/No)	
ARE YOU AN ETB SCHOOL? (Yes/No) If "Yes", please name the ETB	

PLEASE DESCRIBE JCSP IN YOUR SCHOOL:

Are all Junior Cycle students in JCSP? (Yes/No)	
Is there a Mixed Ability setting in your school? (Yes/No)	
Is there a standalone JCSP class in your school? (Yes/No)	

Please complete and return this form to JCSP by email to jcsp@pdst.ie or by post to JCSP, Blackrock Education Centre, Kill Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

