

1<sup>st</sup> September 2015

## Re: Initiatives 2015-2016

Dear Coordinator

We are pleased to inform you that applications are now being accepted online for 2015/2016 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 the 6<sup>th</sup> of October. Please find enclosed the Initiative Booklet together with the Recommended Materials Booklet which contains details of JCSP resources to be ordered and recommendations (based on initiative evaluations from school's experiences). Both are available to view online at [www.jcsp.ie](http://www.jcsp.ie).

### New Proposal and Evaluation Forms

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 newly re-designed initiative proposal and evaluation forms assist schools and co-ordinators in strengthening the link between initiatives and DEIS/School Self-Evaluation Planning.

### JCSP Statements

JCSP statements describe the skills, knowledge and attitudes which JCSP students can attain when engaged with the particular area of study named in the statement. The statement framework allows teachers to share learning outcomes and provide a framework for feedback thus enabling self and/or peer evaluation. They might also be usefully included as possible actions to support targets in your DEIS or SSE plan.

Every effort should be made to link Initiatives with the profiling of students. Profiling is at the heart of the programme and an opportunity to acknowledge and reward student achievement is offered by selecting appropriate statements from the subject areas and from the cross curricular domain of the JCSP Profiling System. The Gateway Statements [CC 1](#) – 5, for example, could apply to most of the Initiatives.

### Resources

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. The resources material request form is available to download on the homepage of [www.jcsp.ie](http://www.jcsp.ie) and the JCSP Co-ordinator should forward this form to [jcspresources@pdst.ie](mailto:jcspresources@pdst.ie)

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## Evaluations

Thank you to all of you who have returned evaluations – they are an essential element of the programme as they allow the wider network of JCSP schools to benefit from the experience and insights gathered by individual teachers. If you have not returned your evaluations, please do so immediately as incomplete evaluations will delay or prevent your school from receiving initiatives this year.

## Accountability

All monies provided for initiatives must be spent on initiatives and receipts be available on request.

As part of our auditing procedures, this year we will be asking a random sample of schools to provide details and receipts of their expenditure. We have also amended the proposal and evaluation forms to gather greater information. Any monies not spent on initiatives must be returned to the JCSP offices immediately.

## General Information in relation to Proposals

Please note that:

- **Incomplete proposals will not be considered.**
- 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.
- The amounts of money available may well be reduced depending on the number of schools applying and the budget available. You will therefore only know how much is approved for your school when you receive your letter of approval.
- 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 schools who have not received this initiative within the last 2 years. You may wish to consider alternative applications.
- In relation to “Top Ups” – preference will be given to schools who have not received this initiative in the past three years.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

We wish you every success in continuing the wonderful work you do with JCSP students each year as part of the initiatives programme.

Yours sincerely



Pat Coffey (Team Leader), Gráinne Dennison, Hazel Gannon, Sinéad O’Sullivan. Senior Librarian: Kathleen Moran