



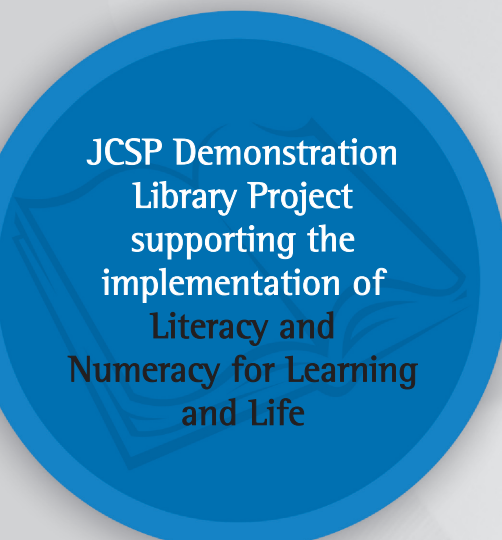
Junior Certificate School Programme Demonstration Library Project

OUR CHARTER



The school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The school library equips students with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens...It has been demonstrated that, when librarians and teachers work together, students achieve higher levels of literacy, reading, learning, problem-solving and information and communication technology skills.

*IFLA/UNESCO School Library Manifesto
The School Library in Teaching and Learning for All*



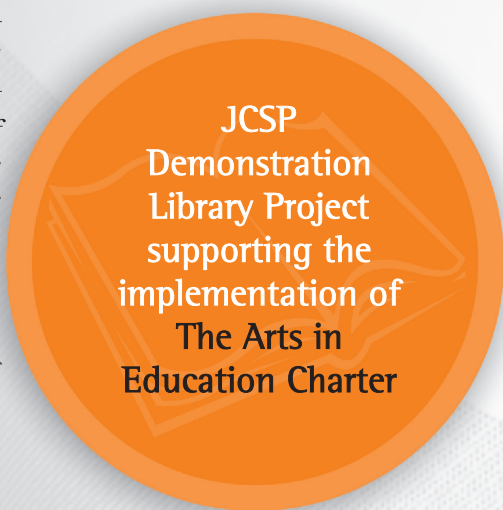
**JCSP Demonstration
Library Project
supporting the
implementation of
Literacy and
Numeracy for Learning
and Life**

Libraries and librarians are an important resource in supporting children's literacy. Through the expert selection of a wide range of books and other materials, libraries can both support the acquisition of literacy skills and help foster children's love of reading. (P. 21.)

Literacy and Numeracy for Learning and Life: The National Strategy to Improve Literacy and Numeracy among Children and Young People 2011-2020. Department of Education and Skills 2011

We believe creativity must be placed at the heart of our future as a society and a country. The arts are our first encounter with that rich world of creativity, and we believe in placing the arts, alongside other subjects, at the core of our education system. (P. 3-4.)

Arts in Education Charter - The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Department of Education and Skills 2012.



**JCSP
Demonstration
Library Project
supporting the
implementation of
The Arts in
Education Charter**

Literacy and numeracy proficiency is fundamental to a student's development right across the curriculum and across the other key skill areas. (P. 9.)

A Framework for Junior Cycle. Department of Education and Skills 2012



**JCSP
Demonstration
Library Project
supporting
Learning and
Teaching in the
Junior Cycle**

"I see the JCSP Library as the key to success in a DEIS school." - Principal

JCSP Demonstration Library Project

Established under the Department of Education and Skills, the brief of the JCSP Demonstration Library Project was to improve literacy levels, develop a whole school reading culture and enhance the learning experience of our students. To date the Project has expanded into 30 schools across Ireland, all in designated areas of disadvantage. Each library is staffed by a full-time professional librarian.

Over the last 10 years, the range of programmes that have been initiated has far exceeded the original vision. We not only support student literacy and learning within the school environment, but we reach into the home and the wider community. Thousands of students have been impacted upon, not only within the immediate school communities, but far beyond.

We work in professional partnership with school management and teachers in planning and running time-tabled library classes throughout the day supporting all areas of the curriculum. We also provide out-of-class time access to our libraries before school, during lunch-time and after school. A range of clubs, activities and events are organised on an ongoing basis.



Our JCSP libraries provide access to the creative arts through engagement with storytellers, rappers, poets, artists, musicians, etc. In addition our students have had learning experiences with scientists, animal handlers, astronomers, chefs, historians and native Irish speakers. We have published student work, displayed student art work in community spaces, seen thousands of pieces of creative art and literature produced via workshops, etc. The school libraries have been turned into galleries, theatres, laboratories, workshops and even archaeological dig sites as these flexible learning spaces lend themselves to meet the ever-changing needs of our students. All of these creative engagements have enriched their experiences of the curriculum and life.

Our goal is to foster a life-long joy of reading and to give students the tools they need to successively navigate their world as 21st century learners. Throw away all your preconceived notions of what a library should be. Our libraries are not silent empty places. Rather they are vibrant active learning spaces at the heart of our schools.

Rights of the Student...

In the JCSP Demonstration Library Project we believe that every student has a right:

- to have access to a library
- to have time for reading
- to have access to a well-organised and comfortable space for reading
- to read beautiful books
- to feel lots of different emotions when reading
- to be engaged in the process of selecting their reading material
- to develop and be respected for their reader identity
- to talk about books
- to be taught by those who have a knowledge and love of books
- to hear stories without interruption or analysis
- to experience the joy of reading both fiction and non-fiction for pleasure
- to be read to
- to be inspired by good books
- to read books electronically
- to borrow books to read at home
- to access varied resources to support their learning
- to develop their information and research skills
- to have access to a range of current, relevant and meaningful reading materials suited to their abilities and interests
- to become great storytellers
- to learn through reading
- to meet authors, poets and storytellers
- to have access to a range of arts and cultural experiences

***“School is hard work. It demands a certain amount of sacrifice.
To be educated you have to keep up the pace.
You’ve no time to enjoy yourself. The pressure is on to learn...
The library is like an oasis.
A sanctuary free of the regimes forced onto the day.
In there, there’s just you, the books and your imagination.”
Colm Keegan (Poet)***

Our Guarantee

Guarantee to our Schools:

We commit to...

- setting up and maintaining a warm, welcoming and attractive library space in each of our schools
- ensuring that all of our libraries contain a wide range of current resources relevant to the social, cultural, emotional and educational needs of our students
- providing a comprehensive range of materials to support teaching and teacher professional development in each of our schools
- ensuring that each JCSP library is staffed by a full-time, professional librarian
- participating annually in the national JCSP Make-a-Book initiative

Guarantee to our Students:

We commit to...

- facilitating time-tabled library classes for all JCSP students in our schools
- facilitating, where possible, time-tabled library classes for ALL students in our schools
- providing daily out-of-hours access to our libraries
- ensuring that every JCSP student will meet at least one author
- facilitating at least one cultural or artistic experience for every JCSP student
- ensuring that every JCSP student will participate in a minimum of three JCSP literacy initiatives
- ensuring that every JCSP student will participate in a minimum of three JCSP numeracy initiatives
- teaching information literacy skills to all JCSP students

Guarantee to our Communities:

We commit to...

- supporting family literacy by providing library access to parents and family members
- supporting other JCSP Programme schools to develop their reading culture
- collaborating with a range of school support services and other agencies to enhance the learning experience of our students

***“Libraries are the best literacy resource we have.
For children they provide an equaliser that allows everyone access to books...
Without them, literacy may increasingly become the province of the lucky few,
rather than the birthright of everyone.”
Malorie Blackman (Author)***

JCSP Librarian Commitment To Students

I pledge that . . .

- I will create a friendly, warm and welcoming library
- I will smile and say hello and say goodbye
- I will be on time
- If I make a mistake, I will apologise
- I will always do my best for you
- I will help you learn and achieve your potential
- If I draw attention to unacceptable behaviour, it doesn't mean that I don't like you
- If you are finding things difficult I will listen and respect what you have to say
- I will be clear and consistent about what I expect from you
- I will treat you with respect and the best manners because that is what you deserve
- I will make library classes interesting and enjoyable
- I will guide and encourage you to become a confident reader

This is my commitment to you the student

'The heart and soul of any school is its library. Libraries are browsing places, dreaming places, finding out places. So much education takes place when children are making choices of their own'

Michael Morpurgo (Author)



JCSP
Demonstration
Library
Project

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