

Cotter, Patricia, 2007, *Junior Certificate School Programme: Perceptions of Students and Co-ordinators.*

ABSTRACT OF DISSERTATION

The aim of this Dissertation is to investigate perceptions of the Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) in four second level schools. The research attempts to investigate satisfaction with the programme as reported by JCSP students and co-ordinators.

Chapter one outlines the objectives of the research, followed by a description of the schools. The remainder of the chapter is concerned with curriculum change in the Irish education system resulting in the introduction of initiatives such as JCSP. The next section of this chapter presents a brief insight into the nature of JCSP. The final aspect of this chapter gives details the introduction of JCSP to each of the schools.

Chapter two presents a review of literature with emphasis on educational disadvantage. Areas such as effects and indicators of educational disadvantage are included. The following section discusses the suitability of the Junior Certificate for early school leavers. The final section describes JCSP in detail, highlighting the many positive aspects of the programme.

Chapter three outlines the various methods of research and identifies the questionnaire as being most appropriate to this particular research. A questionnaire was distributed to JCSP co-ordinators and students. Both groups of respondents were asked similar questions, thus the perceptions of both co-ordinators and students could be compared.

Chapter four analyses the findings of the research under key headings which include: early school leaving, objectives of JCSP, literacy and numeracy skills, social and personal skills concluding with general questions.

Chapter five presents the conclusions of the research and proposes a number of recommendations regarding the implementation of the programme.