

DESCRIPTION OF SUCCESSFUL READING PROGRAMME PROGRAMME TITLE: Summer Reading Programme PROGRAMME ORGANISER(S): Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP)	
Description Created by LiRe Partner Institution: Meath VEC	
Time & Place	Target Group(s)
Summer Holidays, 30 Irish School Libraries	800 post primary school students
Short Description (Max. 200 words)	
<p>The Summer Reading Programme was introduced to 30 Irish post-primary schools in 2011. Its general aim was to support student reading during the summer holidays and to combat the “Summer Slide” effect that has been evident in students learning. Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) students across all Project School Libraries were encouraged and facilitated to borrow books from their school library over the summer months. A number of Project libraries ran additional specialized summer activity programmes, often in conjunction with other agencies and support groups e.g. local public libraries, local youth organisations, feeder Primary schools. 800 students took part in the programme, borrowing 3500 books. School Librarians ensured that the books selected by the students were appropriate to the reading age, according to their General Reading Test results. Students were encouraged to discuss, write about and report on the books they read - with their family, their friends and in library class on their return to school. Summer Book Reviews were gathered for display on school library notice boards, for inclusion in school/library newsletters, etc. In many schools the parents of students participating in the Summer Reading Programme were informed in advance about the Programme and encouraged to support their children in their summer reading activities. Parents were made aware of when the school library would be open over the summer months and were also asked to encourage their child to join or use their local public library over the summer.</p>	
Objectives (General & Specific)	
<p>General:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support students’ reading during the summer months. • To encourage parental involvement in students reading. <p>Specific:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To combat the “Summer Slide” effect of students reading attainment. • To create cohesion between schools and educational services. • To provide exciting and up to date reading material for young people. 	
Scheme of Reading Promotion Actions & Activities	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students reading attainment assessed by Librarian using the GRT (General Reading Test). 2. Students given a book bag and selection of appropriate reading material provided by school library. 3. Students select between 6-8 books to read during the Summer months. 	



4. School Library is opened on specific dates and Librarian available to aid students in their progress.
5. After the summer, students present their project work, if they have chosen to complete it, and return books.

Results / Indicators of Success

The Summer Reading Programme was seen as a great success, with one Librarian commenting:

"I think it's one of the best initiatives I have done and I am incredibly proud of the work the students have put into their reading over the summer"

One librarian reported that the mother of one of her Lithuanian students called to the school library over the summer months to borrow additional books for her son – who was spending the summer in Lithuania. He had asked his mother to post the books out to him.

Teachers noticed in the students that participated that they were mentally ready to return to school.

Parents were surprised by the amount of reading being undertaken by their children:

"I can't get my feet under the table with all the books John brought home".

One of the students commented:

"I went to the public library every second week because I needed to get the next books [in the series] to find out what happened."

CONCLUSIONS

(WHAT WORKED WELL AND WHY)

There were a number of key factors that led to the success of this programme. The first was incorporating parental involvement into the reading programme. This ensured that students would continue to read during the summer holidays. It was important that the students were assessed at the beginning of the programme, so appropriate reading material could be provided. Following on from this, it was important to have a wide variety of age appropriate texts so the students could choose their own reading material. The opening hours of the school library were important in order for students to access additional reading material.