

## Junior Cycle and your child

Junior Cycle places students at the centre of the educational experience, enabling them to actively participate in their communities and in society and to be resourceful and confident learners in all aspects and stages of their lives.

The world is changing at a rapid rate and the curriculum must adapt in order to best prepare children for their future and to develop their ability to take on these challenges.

The Department of Education and Skills has responded to requests for change from students, teachers and parents and created a curriculum that places the student at its core.

### at a Junior Cycle class looks like

Students will:  
engage more actively with, and take greater ownership of, their learning, e.g., through oral language tasks, field studies and artistic performances  
engage with digital media to enhance their learning  
engage with the 8 Key Skills, e.g., problem solve and think critically



view a Junior Cycle classroom in action visit <https://bit.ly/2m3xGjc>

### at students will learn

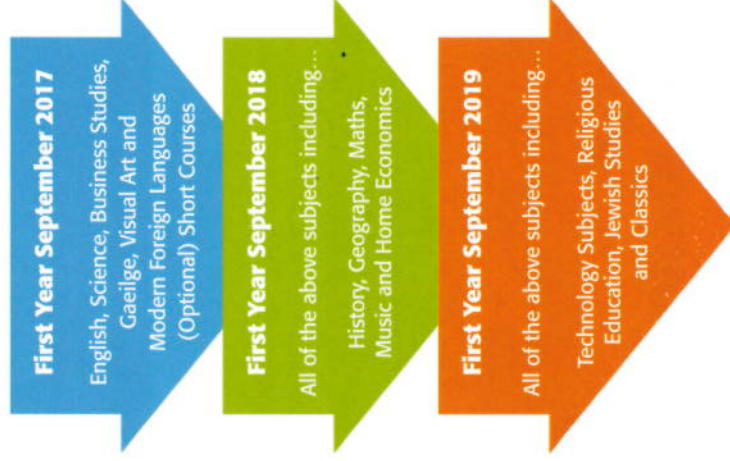
In a junior cycle, a student will learn through a number of subjects, or through a combination of subjects and short courses

An area of learning called **Wellbeing** **Priority Learning Units (PLUs)**; these will be included in level two learning programmes that provide for a small number of students with significant special educational needs  
Other learning experiences

## Subjects

Subjects continue to play an important role as part of the new junior cycle programme.  
Most students will study between eight and ten subjects, or their equivalent.

### Your child will experience new junior cycle subjects in the following order



## Short Courses

Schools may also offer students the opportunity to take a small number of **Short Courses**.

The main purpose of short courses is to allow schools greater flexibility in the delivery of their junior cycle programme. The inclusion of short courses in a junior cycle programme will also allow schools to broaden the learning experiences for students, address their interests and encompass areas of learning not covered by the combination of curricular subjects available in the school.

Schools may offer short courses in Coding; Chinese Language and Culture; Digital Media Literacy; Philosophy; Artistic Performance; Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE); Physical Education (PE) and Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE).

There are three Level 2 short courses available: Exploring Forensic Science, Enterprise in Animation and A Personal Project: Caring for Animals.

Alternatively, schools can also develop their own Short Course in accordance with national guidelines.



## Wellbeing

As part of the new Junior Cycle students will experience a new area of learning called Wellbeing. This will build on the work schools are already doing in support of students' wellbeing and will make it more visible for students.

Through the Wellbeing programme students will gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills to enable them to protect and promote their own wellbeing and that of others.

The four main pillars of the Wellbeing programme are Civic, Social and Political Education (CSPE), Physical Education (PE), Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Guidance education.

## Level 2 Learning Programmes

For the first time in the history of education in Ireland there is a Junior Cycle pathway for students with particular special educational needs called Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs). An L2LP programme consists of five Priority Learning Units (PLUs) and will be recorded on a student's Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). These priority areas of learning include:

- Living in a Community
- Preparing for Work
- Personal Care
- Communicating and Literacy
- Numeracy

As part of an L2LP students must also complete two short courses.