

Four areas of learning

Throughout the junior cycle, your child will engage in other areas of learning such as social, cultural, sporting, pastoral, scientific, entrepreneurial and other activities.

Linking Approach to Assessment

The most significant change in the new Junior Cycle is in the way of assessment.

The new approach to assessment, involving classroom-based assessment across the three years and a final externally-set, state-certified examination can enable the appropriate balance between preparing students for examinations and facilitating creative thinking, engaged learning and better outcomes for students.

The new approach will recognise and value the different types of learning that take place in schools and will allow for a more rounded assessment of the educational achievements of every young person.

Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) will be completed by students in each subject and short course. CBAs aim to provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning in areas that are difficult to capture in a timed paper exam. For example, the first CBA in English, which is completed during 2nd year, is an oral communication task. It provides students the opportunity to research an area of their interest and communicate their findings through a range of oral communication formats.

Classroom-Based Assessment Task (AT)

This is a written assessment that requires the students to demonstrate their skills on the skills, knowledge and understanding that they have developed throughout their experience of the second year Classroom-Based Assessment. The assessment task will be completed during class time under the supervision of a teacher and will take place over two lesson periods.

State-Certified Examination

At the end of third year, students will continue to undertake an examination in each subject (of no more than two hours duration), externally set and moderated by the State Examinations Committee (SEC).

For more information on the Junior Cycle click on <https://bit.ly/2IHzc77> for a short video that describes the Junior Cycle journey.

What will reporting look like?

During the three years of junior cycle, oral and written feedback to parents/guardians and students will be essential in supporting the student to build on strengths and address areas where learning can improve.

Linking classroom assessment and other assessment with a new system of reporting that culminates in the awarding of the **Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)** will offer parents/guardians a clear and broad picture of their child's learning journey over the three years of junior cycle.

The JCPA will record student's achievements in the following:

- the state-certified examinations, inclusive of the Assessment Tasks
- Classroom-Based Assessments,
- Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs), where applicable
- Wellbeing
- Other Areas of Learning (such as social, cultural, pastoral, scientific, sporting, entrepreneurial and other skills)



Parents can also learn about the Junior Cycle from the following two websites:

www.curriculumonline.ie - for subject and short course specifications and information regarding assessment

A new support service for schools has been established to support schools in implementing their Junior Cycle programme. Visit www.jct.ie for information on teacher Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and for general information regarding the new junior cycle



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Junior Cycle Information for Parents of Primary Students



An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí
Junior CYCLE
for teachers

