

What new opportunities are available for my child?

“... learning that there are ways to learn other than the way adults and teachers want you to”. Student voice

Schools may offer short courses in Coding; Chinese Language and Culture; Digital Media Literacy; Artistic Performance; Civic, Social and Political Education; Physical Education and Social, Personal and Health Education. There are two Level 2 short courses available: Exploring Forensic Science and A Personal Project: Caring for Animals. A short course is designed for 100 hours of student engagement.

Other areas of learning that your child has engaged in throughout their Junior Cycle, will be reported on your child's Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.

There is a new Junior Cycle pathway for students with particular special educational needs called Level 2 Learning Programmes. They consist of 5 Priority Learning Units: Living in a Community, Preparing for Work, Personal Care, Communicating and Literacy and Numeracy.



What will a Junior Cycle class look like?

Students will:

- be more actively engaged with learning
- engage with the 8 Key Skills:



- take greater ownership of their learning
- have a greater engagement with digital technology
- be encouraged to problem solve and think critically

Wellbeing

Your child's wellbeing is of central importance to their educational success and overall happiness. An area of learning called Wellbeing is now a core part of your child's Junior Cycle experience. This area includes Civic, Social and Political Education; Social, Personal and Health Education and Physical Education. Other areas will be included over time e.g. Guidance Education.

“We want to learn how to be happy, how to be a good person”. Student voice

Information for Parents of Primary School Students



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.



Framework for Junior Cycle 2015

Our children face many challenges as they live their lives now and as they face the future. Their world is changing at a rapid rate and the curriculum must adapt in order to best prepare children for their future and their ability to take on these challenges.

The Department of Education and Skills has responded to requests from students, teachers and parents for change and has created a curriculum that places the student at its core. The centrality of the student is best expressed through the 24 Statements of Learning which all post-primary schools will engage with as part of their Junior Cycle developments. These statements describe what your child should know, understand and value, having participated in junior cycle education.



There is a focus on developing skills needed for life beyond the classroom and on nurturing wellbeing. Different types of learning will be reported on and there is a shift in focus away from exams.

When is this going to happen?

The implementation of the Junior Cycle started in September 2014 with the teaching of the new subject specification in English.

The specifications for Science and Business Studies will be introduced in September 2016. Other subjects will be phased in over the following years.



How will my child benefit from the Junior Cycle?

The Junior Cycle affords a significant continuity of experience for your child as he/she makes the transition from primary to post-primary school. It provides greater choice of learning experiences in the curriculum. It reduces the focus on examinations at the end of third year. It places importance on students managing their own learning.

You as parents will also receive a richer quality of reporting over the three years, initially in English where Classroom-Based Assessments will be reported to you using a template in development by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.

Will there still be exams in third year?

Yes, subjects will continue to be examined by the State Examinations Commission in June of third year, however each subject exam paper will be no longer than 2 hours. The results will form part of your child's Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA), which will offer a more complete report on your child's progress during their junior cycle education.

How is the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) different to the Junior Certificate?

The Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement is issued by the school and reports on:

- The student's achievements in the state-certified examinations inclusive of the Assessment Tasks
- The student's achievements in the Classroom-Based Assessments including short courses
- The student's achievements in other areas of learning
- The student's achievements in the area of Wellbeing
- The student's achievements in Level 2 Learning Programmes

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



www.curriculumonline.ie
www.jct.ie

JCT will also update the National Parents Council (Primary) Trainers, ensuring that parents of primary school children are kept up to date with developments.