

Short Courses

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.

Other areas of learning

Other areas of learning that your child will engage in throughout their Junior Cycle will be reported on their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA).

These may include areas such as social, cultural, pastoral, scientific, entrepreneurial and other activities.

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, which are inclusive of the Assessment Tasks
- the Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) in subjects and short courses
- other areas of learning
- the area of Wellbeing
- Level 2 Learning Programmes

Will there still be exams in third year?

Yes, subjects will continue to be examined by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) in June of third year. However, each subject's exam paper will be no longer than two 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.

Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)

There will be two CBAs for each subject; in general the first one in 2nd year and a second one in 3rd year. These could range from project tasks, oral language tasks and investigations, to practical or design and/or make tasks, field studies and artistic performances.

Assessment Task (AT)

This is a written assessment that requires the students to reflect on the skills, knowledge and understanding that they developed throughout their experience of the second 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.

For more information on the Junior Cycle click on <http://bit.ly/2lHzcr7> for a short video that describes the Junior Cycle journey.



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



The 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 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.

What a Junior Cycle class looks like

Students will:

- more actively engage with and take greater ownership of their learning, e.g., through oral language tasks, field studies and artistic performances
- have a greater exposure to digital technology
- engage with the 8 Key Skills, e.g., be encouraged to problem solve and think critically



To view a Junior Cycle classroom in action visit <http://bit.ly/2m3xGjC>

The phasing in of subject specifications

First Year September 2017

English, Science, Business Studies, Gaelige, Visual Art and Modern Foreign Languages (Optional) Short Courses

First Year September 2018

All of the above subjects including...
History, Geography, Maths, Music and Home Economics

First Year September 2019

All of the above subjects including...
Technology Subjects, Religious Education, Jewish Studies and Classics



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 junior cycle Wellbeing programme will begin in 2017 with 300 hours of timetabled learning in Wellbeing over the three years of junior cycle. This will build up to 400 hours by 2020 as the new junior cycle is embedded in schools.

- 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.
- Other subjects, short courses and units of learning can also contribute to a school's Wellbeing programme.

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). They consist of five Priority Learning Units (PLUs) and will be recorded on a students' 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.