



A different kind of junior cycle experience

Name of school and presenter

The aim of this session is to discuss ...

- why change is needed in junior cycle
- what will be different
- what will stay the same
- how you can support your child's learning in a new junior cycle.



What will be different for your child?



- Smoother transition from primary to post-primary
- More actively involved in their learning
- Greater emphasis on literacy, numeracy and the key skills
- Assessment – nearer in time and place to the learning
- Improved feedback and reporting to parents/guardians



But do we really need to change?

ESRI research

- many students are turned off learning in junior cycle
- the Junior Certificate exam is dominating teaching and learning in many Irish classrooms
- the curriculum is overcrowded
- there is too much emphasis on covering content and not enough time for deeper learning or developing skills
- there is a narrow range of assessment activity - lots of tests!



What is the purpose of junior cycle?

- To help students make the successful transition from primary to post primary school
- To help students become better learners
- To develop skills for learning and for life
- To provide with a solid foundation for senior cycle
- To give students a trial run for the Leaving Cert.
- To encourage young people to develop a love of learning

Innovation & Identity

Schools developing Junior Cycle

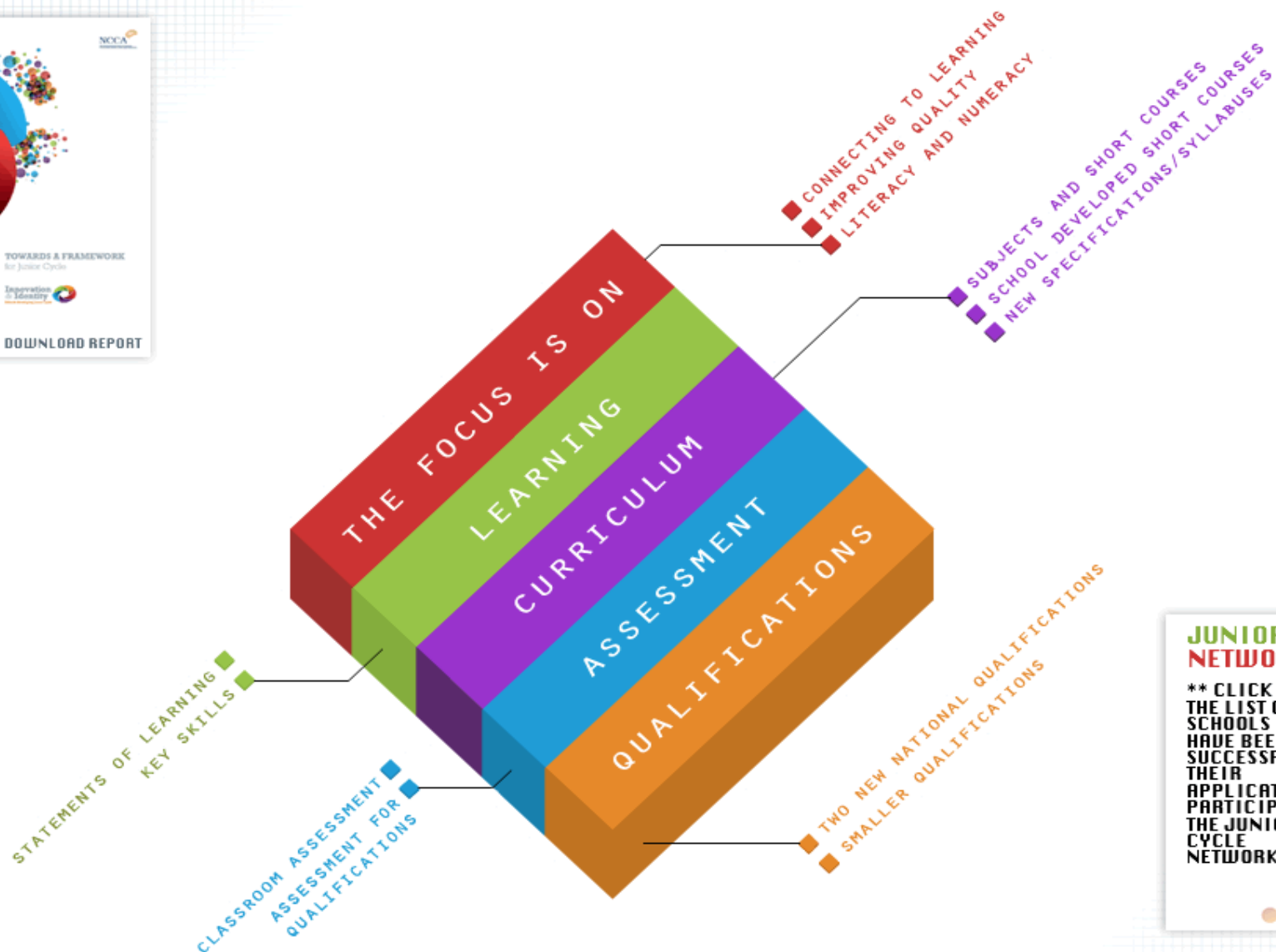


A Framework for Junior Cycle

October 2012



www.juniorcycle.ie



JUNIOR CYCLE NETWORK

**** CLICK TO VIEW THE LIST OF SCHOOLS WHO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JUNIOR CYCLE NETWORK ****



What is different?

Clarity on junior cycle learning – a
different kind of CORE!

The student

- 1 communicates effectively using a variety of means in a range of contexts in L1¹
- 2 reaches a level of personal proficiency in L2 and one other language in reading, writing, speaking and listening
- 3 creates, appreciates and critically interprets texts (including written, oral, visual and other texts)
- 4 recognises the potential uses of mathematical knowledge, skills, and understanding in all areas of learning
- 5 uses mathematical knowledge, reasoning and skills in devising strategies for investigating and solving problems
- 6 describes, illustrates, interprets, predicts and explains patterns and relationships
- 7 improves their observation, inquiry, and critical-thinking skills
- 8 develops an understanding of the natural world
- 9 values what it means to be an active citizen, with rights and responsibilities in local and wider contexts
- 10 learns how to think and act sustainably
- 11 understands the distribution of social, economic, and environmental phenomena
- 12 values local and national heritage and recognises the relevance of the past to current national and international issues and events





Managing myself	Staying well	Communicating
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowing myself Making considered decisions Setting and achieving personal goals Being able to reflect on my own learning Using digital technology to manage myself and my learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being healthy, physical and active Being social Being safe Being spiritual Being confident Being positive about learning Being responsible, safe and ethical in using digital technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Listening and expressing myself Performing and presenting Discussing and debating Using language Using number Using digital technology to communicate
Being creative	Working with others	Managing information and thinking
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imagining Exploring options and alternatives Implementing ideas and taking action Learning creatively Stimulating creativity using digital technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing good relationships and dealing with conflict Co-operating Respecting difference Contributing to making the world a better place Learning with others Working with others through digital technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Being curious Gathering, recording, organising and evaluating information and data Thinking creatively and critically Reflecting on and evaluating my learning Using digital technology to access, manage and share content



The kind of learning your child will experience

VIDEO

<https://vimeo.com/ncca/review/16241718/e93ef20c76>



Subjects

Art Craft Design
Business Studies
Classics
English
French
Geography
German
History
Home Economics
Irish
Italian
Jewish Studies
Materials
Technology (Wood)
Mathematics
Metalwork
Music
Religious Education
Science
Spanish
Technical Graphics
Technology

Short Courses

Civic, Social and Political Education
Digital Media Literacy
Social, Personal and Health Education
Physical Education
Chinese
Artistic Performance
Programming and Coding
Personal Project; Caring for Animals (Level 2)

...and school developed short courses.

Level 2 Qualification

Communicating and Literacy
Numeracy
Looking after myself
Living in a community
Preparing for work

Priority Learning Units

Such as...

Guidance
DEAR (Drop everything and read)
Tutorial Time
Choir
Etc.

Other learning experiences

A new Junior Cycle

Curriculum and programme planning

- An opportunity to review the school's junior cycle programme
- All existing subjects being revised on a phased basis
- New curriculum components added such as short courses

Subject Phases

2014-2015

English

2015-2016

Gaeilge
Business Studies
Science

2016-2017

Art, Craft, Design
Modern Languages
Home Economics
Music
Geography

2017-2018

Mathematics
Technology Subjects
Religious Education
Jewish Studies
Classics
History



Greater focus on assessment that
helps students to become better
learners



Assessment for certification is different.....

- Students will present evidence of learning in a combination of subjects and short courses
- 60% of the marks will be for a final examination
- 40% will be for school based work completed during 2nd and 3rd year
- Students will be more responsible for creating, gathering and presenting evidence of their learning.

Subject limit

Eight subjects

Or
7 subjects + 2 short
courses

Or
6 subjects and 4 short
courses

Nine subjects

Or
8 subjects + 2 short
courses

Or
7 subjects + 4 short
courses

Ten subjects

Or
9 subjects + 2 short courses

Or
8 subjects + 4 short courses

Main features of the *Framework for Junior Cycle*

New School Certificate and School Report

- School Certificate
- Includes results in subjects and short courses taken
- Also School Report – other achievements, attributes, certification and comments



Qualifications are different

- Two qualifications on National Framework for Qualifications
 - Level 3
 - Level 2
- The qualification is smaller allowing more space and time for deeper learning, key skills, literacy and numeracy



Level Two Programme

- Level 2 is for students who cannot access the learning associated with Level 3 subjects and short courses
- 5 priority learning units (PLUs):
 - Communicating
 - Literacy and numeracy
 - Preparing for work
 - Personal care
 - Living in a community



In summary - what will be different for your child?



- Smoother transition from primary to post-primary
- Students more actively involved in their learning
- Greater emphasis on literacy, numeracy and the key skills
- More focus on learning how to learn
- Assessment will be part of everyday learning
- Combination of external exams with assessment of school work
- Improved feedback and reporting to parents/guardians



What stays the same?

- Students will experience a broad and balanced curriculum
- Standards and expectations will remain high for all students
- Subjects will continue to play an important role in junior cycle
- State Examinations Commission will continue to be involved in assessment for certification
- The Department of Education and Skills will monitor results across all schools



How can I support my child's learning?

- Show interest, ask questions, listen and affirm
- Read notes and progress reports that are sent home
- Attend school meetings and events
- Encourage your child to participate fully in learning opportunities both within and outside school
- Encourage your child to develop skills and take on challenges in and out of school
- Support them by creating structures and routines so that they can keep up with homework and project work
- Promote good sleep, diet and exercise habits
- If you need more information, please contact the school



In small groups.....

1. What do you think is good about these changes?
2. Any questions or concerns?

Website

www.juniorcycle.ie

