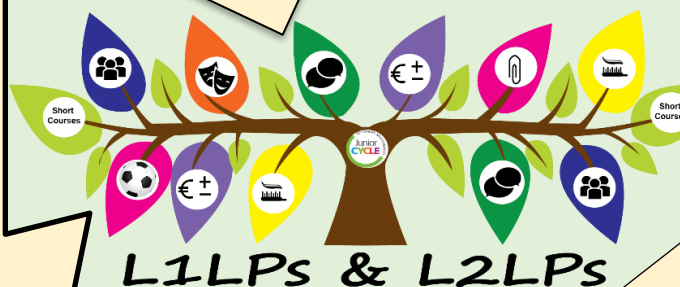
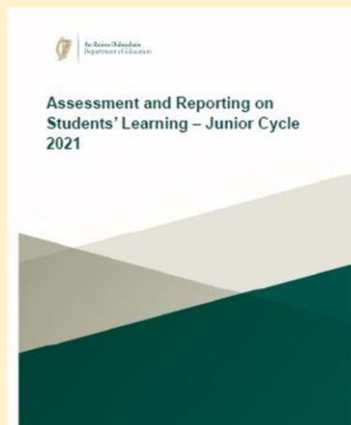


Key Messages taken from Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning Junior Cycle 2021.

- The Junior Cycle examinations will not be run this year.
- As third-year students are currently expected to return to school in April 2021, it is expected that with the support of their teachers, students will be able to further progress in their learning and work towards completing their Junior Cycle programme.
- The use of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) is not appropriate as a reporting and certification mechanism in 2021.
- To protect the time for teaching and learning and the completion of courses, a balanced approach should be taken to the gathering of further evidence of third-year students' attainment over the remainder of the school year.
- Care should be taken to ensure that third year students are not over-assessed on their return to school.
- The assessment of students' learning and achievements will take place at school level. Drawing on teachers' professional knowledge, schools (following consultation with teachers of third-year students) will have the autonomy to choose the most appropriate forms of school-based assessment to put in place for the third-year cohort for the remainder of the school year.
- Schools and teachers may set a limited number of additional assessments up to 21 May 2021. These assessments should be considered proportionately with existing evidence of students' learning over the programme when reporting to students on their achievements in subjects on the school report.

Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning – Junior Cycle 2021 Click on image



We are here to help, please contact us via email with any enquiries or questions you may have on info@jct.ie

In 2021, Junior Cycle students' progress and learning achievements will be recognised in two specific ways designed to meet the current exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- A **State Certificate** of Completion of the Junior Cycle from the Department of Education. This certificate will state that the student has completed the Junior Cycle programme of study. For each student, the certificate will include the list of subjects, short courses and/or priority learning units studied by him/her during their Junior Cycle programme.
- A **School Report** detailing the learning achievements of the student during their Junior Cycle programme. Students should receive a written report on the broad range of learning that they have achieved in each subject, short course and/or priority learning unit at the end of Junior Cycle. This assessment of their learning will be provided by their teachers. Schools will have autonomy, following consultation with the teachers of third-year students, regarding how this assessment is to be arrived at and the format in which the report is provided.

Considerations when assessing students' learning for the purposes of school reporting on student learning.

A collaborative approach should be taken in schools to devise a suitable timeframe for the completion of any assessments and should be reviewed at whole-school level to ensure that the timeframes are balanced and achievable. In all cases, additional assessments, if conducted, should be completed before 21 May 2021.

Where relevant the method or format of assessment used should be inclusive of students with special educational needs (SEN) and provide differentiated approaches to allow students with SEN to access the appropriate assessment mode and be adaptable to their context.

Evidence to inform their assessment of students' achievements could include:

Evidence already available within the school from assignments, tests, tasks, journals, portfolios, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year.

School-designed examinations, tasks, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations, or other tasks chosen by the teacher from the range of approaches agreed at school level.

Providing the report to students and parents/guardians

Students and their parents/guardians should receive a written report from the school of the progress and achievement in each subject, short course and/or priority learning unit, Wellbeing, and other areas of learning.

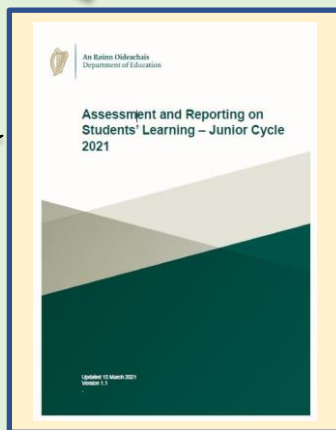
The students school report should include:

Subjects and grade and/or descriptor awarded.

Descriptors awarded to Priority Learning Units and CBAs

The report should also provide an opportunity to report on other aspects of achievement including the wellbeing programme.

Schools may use reporting template from the NCCA but are free to devise their own report format.



For students in special schools completing Level One Learning Programme (L1LP) and/or Level Two Learning Programme (L2LP):

where relevant in subjects, PLUs and/or short courses, the deadline for completing and reporting on assessment is 18 June 2021. Additional guidance for schools and teachers on the gathering of evidence for PLUs and the revised assessment and reporting of L1LPs and L2LPs for current 3rd year students (2020-2021) is available [here](#)

Read this newsletter in conjunction with the above document available [here](#)

Providing State Certification

The Department of Education will provide each student with a certificate indicating the completion of the Junior Cycle programme of study, including the list of subjects, short courses and/or priority learning units studied.

This certificate will be provided in the school year 2021/22.

