



Information Note TC 0011/2022

To: Boards of Management, Principal Teachers and Teaching Staff of Post-Primary Schools, Special Schools and Chief Executives of ETBs

Information Note

Updates on the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle with particular reference to the school year 2022/23. To be read in conjunction with Circular 0059/2021.

Purpose of this note

This information note, to be read in conjunction with *Circular 0059/2021, Arrangements for the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle with particular reference to the school year 2021/22*, supersedes aspects of that circular and sets out updates in Junior Cycle implementation for school year 2022/23.

Boards of Management, Principal teachers of all post-primary schools, special schools, and the Chief Executives (CE) of all Education and Training Boards (ETBs) are asked to ensure that this note is brought to the immediate attention of all teachers. In addition, Boards of Management are also requested to ensure that parents/guardians and students are advised of the relevant elements of this note.

Curriculum Updates

- Schools are required to provide a programme of 400 hours of Wellbeing for students starting first-year September 2022. The [NCCA Junior Cycle Wellbeing Guidelines \(2021\)](#) aim to support schools in planning and developing a coherent Wellbeing programme that builds on the understandings, practices and curricula for Wellbeing already existing in schools.
- In planning their Wellbeing programme, schools are reminded that from September 2022 onwards, the use of the Junior Certificate syllabuses for SPHE and CSPE should be discontinued. Further information on this can be found in section 2.4 of [Circular 0059/2021](#).
- In addition to programmes of study in PE, SPHE and CSPE schools may also choose to include other areas in their provision for Wellbeing, with



examples set out in the *NCCA Junior Cycle Wellbeing Guidelines*. Further information is available in Section 2.6 of [Circular 0059/2021](#).

- The NCCA has finalised a 135-hour programme for Physical Education (PE), which will be implemented in schools in September 2023. Further information on this can be found in section 2.4 of [Circular 0059/2021](#).
- It is not appropriate to use resources or materials produced or funded by the alcohol industry for education and awareness on alcohol in schools, or for teachers to attend, in their professional capacity, associated training which may be offered by organisations funded by the alcohol industry.
Correspondence on this matter issued to Principals on 9 December 2022.

Assessment Updates

- Adjustments were made to assessment arrangements for the 2022/2023 academic year and published in September 2022 in the document [Assessment Arrangements for Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate Examinations 2023](#)
- Adjustments were made to the Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) arrangements and published in [Revised arrangements for the completion of Classroom Based Assessments \(CBAs\) for students in third year and second year in 2022/2023](#)
- Students in 3rd year in the school year 2022/23 will not be required to complete Assessment Tasks (ATs) in the relevant subjects.

Management Resource Hours

- In recognition of the fact that the introduction of the *Framework for Junior Cycle 2015* has implications for school leaders, extra hours were allocated to schools (via substitution) with effect from 2016 on an interim basis pending the restoration of leadership posts in schools, to help with the facilitation of this additional work.
- Schools receive these additional resources on the basis that their Junior Cycle students have access to teaching, learning and assessment practices, including the holding of Subject, Learning And Review (SLAR) meetings, in line with the Framework for Junior Cycle 2015 and the associated specifications designed by the NCCA and approved by the Minister, including all assessment arrangements set out in Junior Cycle circulars.



- While these management resource hours were due to lapse at the end of the 2021/22 school year, the Department decided, on an interim basis, to continue to allocate these hours under the same allocation model for the school year 2022/23.
- However, as laid out in the letter reminding Principals of the arrangements and tasks required for uploading and completion of Junior Cycle Profiles of Achievement (JCPAs), sent to schools on 1 June 2022, the uploading of finalised CBA assessments to PPOD for inclusion in students' JCPAs is being actively monitored by the Department of Education.
- The Department has established a dedicated email account CBAUPLOADS@education.gov.ie, to allow school Principals to advise the Department of particular issues in their school in relation to the finalisation of CBA assessments for uploading to PPOD.
- Further information on Management Resource Hours can be found in section 4.5 of [Circular 0059/2021](#).

Reporting Updates

- Wellbeing programmes will be reported on in their own separate area of the JCPA for the first time in the 2022 JCPA, applying to students who completed 3rd year in the 2021/2022 school year.
- Reporting on student achievement in CSPE, SPHE and PE short courses will be facilitated by the use of the descriptors which have already been developed and reflect the appropriate language of learning.
- Due to technical constraints, it is not possible to reflect subject descriptors for the old Junior Certificate syllabi in the Wellbeing section of the 2022 JCPA. As a result, schools which provided the Junior Certificate syllabi in CSPE, SPHE and/or PE to students will have to reflect their students' achievements in these areas of learning via the free text box entitled 'Other Areas of Wellbeing'. Suggested text has been developed and provided to schools for this purpose. Students who studied the Junior Cycle short courses are not affected by this issue.
- Further details concerning wellbeing reporting, including the suggested text referred to above, are available in the letter sent to school Principals outlining arrangements for reporting on wellbeing areas of learning in the JCPA for 2022 on 25 May 2022.
- The JCPA production process will open as soon as is feasible in the New Year. Further information in relation to the production process will issue at that time along with this year's JCPA Handbook.



Ongoing Review of Junior Cycle Implementation

- The NCCA is undertaking early enactment reviews on the implementation of Junior Cycle specifications in a number of subject areas.
- The University of Limerick has been commissioned by the NCCA to conduct a research study - *Exploring the implementation and impact of the Framework for Junior Cycle in post-primary schools*.
- A first report from this longitudinal study was published in October 2022.
- It is expected that this research, which began in late 2020, will continue until 2024.
- Both reviews aim to capture the views of students, teachers and stakeholders to provide insights and learnings that can inform the ongoing implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle.

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