

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí

Junior **CYCLE**  
for teachers

# Junior Cycle

## *Information for Parents*

### *Part 1*

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

- Nelson Mandela



# Overview

1. Our students
2. Structure of the Junior Cycle
3. Subjects, Short Courses, Wellbeing and Other Areas of Learning
4. Assessment and Reporting
5. Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)

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# Our Students

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Connecting  
primary  
and  
secondary

Settling in  
and making  
progress in  
first year

A  
purposeful  
second year

Ongoing  
assessment  
to support  
learning

Literacy and  
numeracy  
for learning  
and life



# What is the purpose of education in Junior Cycle?

- Help students become better learners and develop a love of learning
- Provide a solid foundation for further study
- To develop skills for learning and life
- To support learning through improved reporting to both students and parents

# What will students experience in Junior Cycle?

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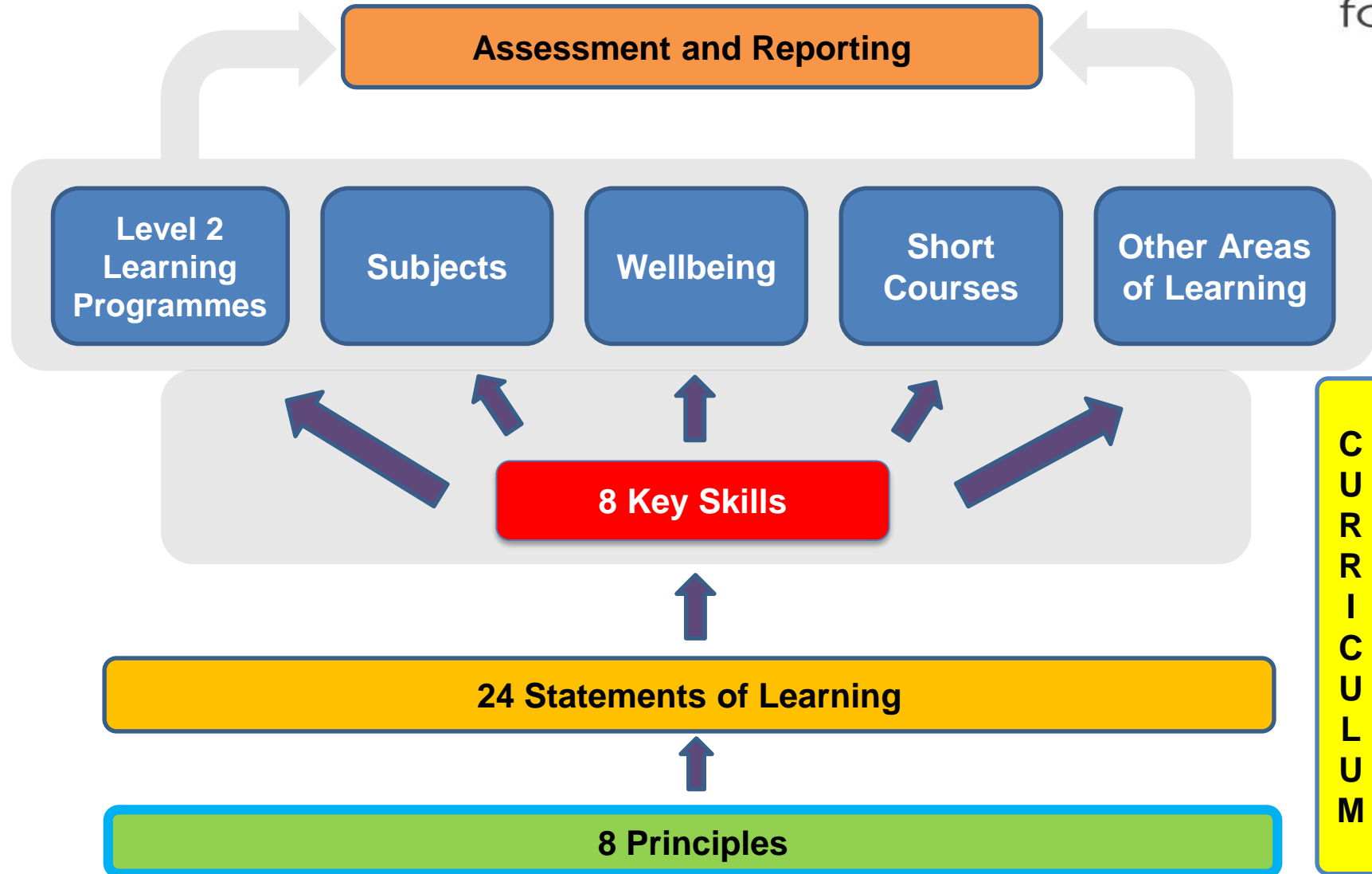
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# Structure of the Junior Cycle

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# Your child in First-year

Sept 2016

English  
Science  
Business Studies

Sept 2017

English  
Science  
Business Studies  
Irish  
Art, Craft & Design  
Modern Languages  
  
Wellbeing

Sept 2018

English  
Science  
Business Studies  
Irish  
Art, Craft & Design  
Modern Languages  
Maths  
History  
Geography  
Music  
Home Economics  
  
Wellbeing

Sept 2019

All subjects from 2018 plus

**Materials Technology Wood**

**Metalwork**

**Technology**

**Technical Graphics**

**Religious Education**

**Jewish Studies**

**Classics**

**Wellbeing**

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Furthermore:

- ◆ Other Areas of Learning will also be reported on
- ◆ Schools can offer the **Level 2 Learning Programme**
- ◆ Schools can offer Short Courses

# Key Messages of Framework for Junior Cycle 2015

Flexible programme for student learning

Balance between knowledge and skills

Dual approach to assessment

Reporting a broader picture of learning

Student wellbeing is central to the  
Framework

Supporting continuity and learning - building  
on primary school



Framework for Junior Cycle  
2015



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS



# What stays the same?

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

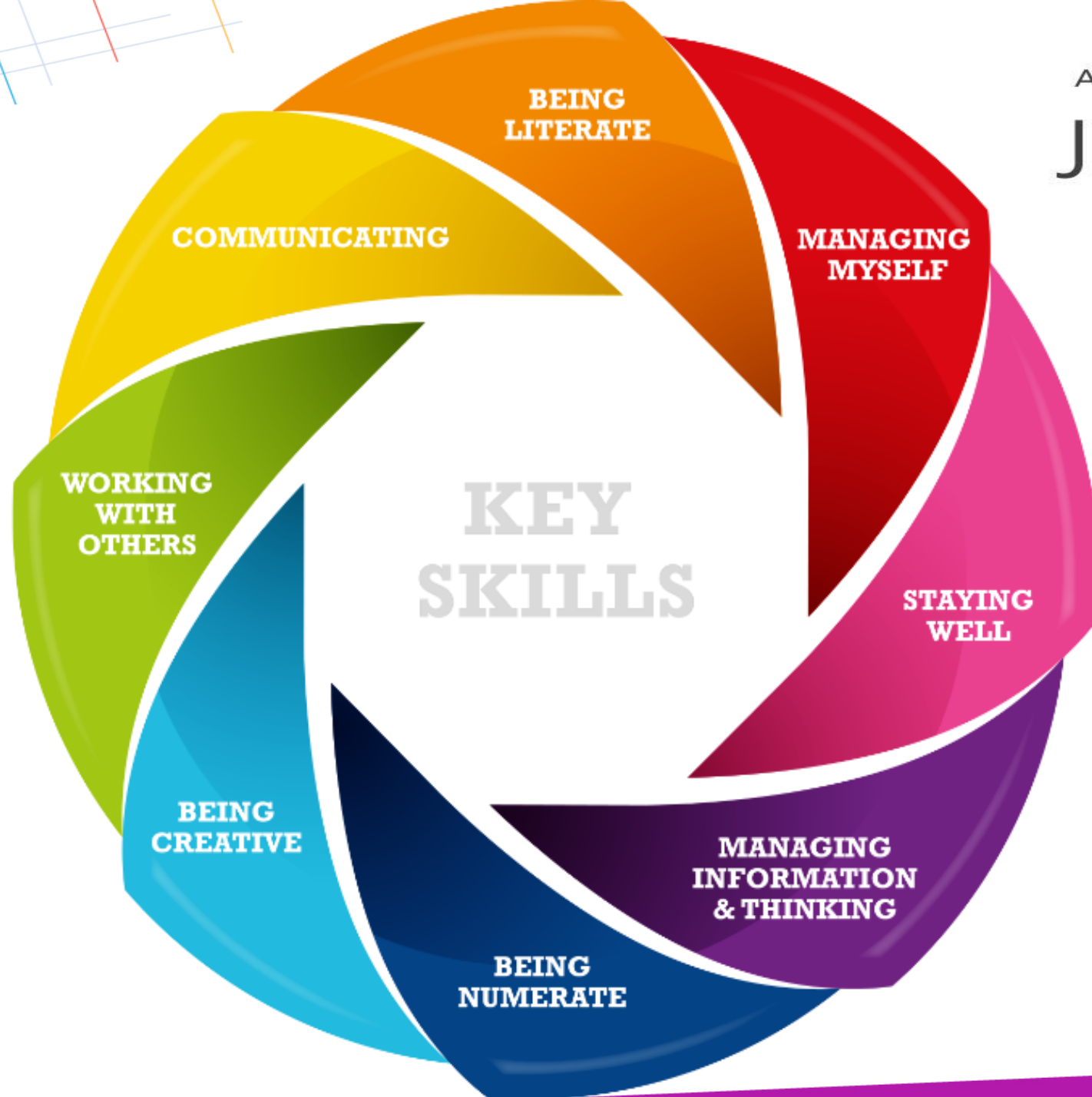
# What is improving?

- A better and a more engaging learning experience for your child
- Updated subject specifications
- Quality reporting back to parents and students
- Assessment to support learning
- An emphasis on Key Skills and preparation for life
- A sound preparation for learning at Senior Cycle and beyond

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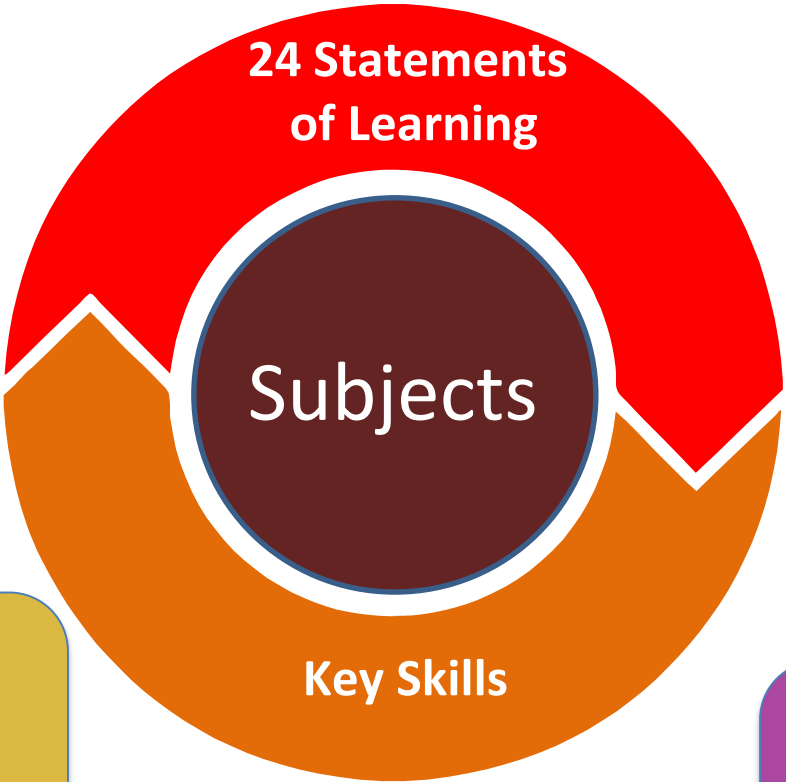


Mathematics  
Science  
Home Economics  
Business Studies

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Music  
Art, Craft and Design  
Classics  
Religious Education

History  
Geography  
Jewish Studies



English  
German  
Irish  
Spanish  
French  
Italian

Technical Graphics  
Materials Technology Wood  
Technology  
Metalwork



# Short Courses

**Level 3**

Civic, Social & Political Education  
Social Personal Health Education  
Physical Education

Coding  
Philosophy  
Digital Media Literacy

Chinese Language and Culture  
Artistic Performance

**Level 2**

A Personal Project: Caring for Animals  
Exploring Forensic Science  
Enterprise in Animation

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# Wellbeing

300 & moving to 400 hours over 3 years

- Physical Education
- Social, Personal and Health Education (including Relationship and Sexuality Education)
- Civic, Social and Political Education
- Guidance



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**STUDENT  
WELLBEING IS AT  
THE HEART OF THE  
VISION OF A NEW  
JUNIOR CYCLE.**

# Why does wellbeing matter?

Student wellbeing is present when the students **realise their abilities**, take care of their **physical wellbeing**, can cope with the **normal stresses of life**, and have a **sense of purpose** and belonging to a **wider community**.



# Building a shared understanding of wellbeing

It is important that the **whole school community** builds and shares a **common understanding** of wellbeing, especially of what we mean when we talk about student wellbeing

Wellbeing for **All**

# INDICATORS OF WELLBEING



## ACTIVE

- Am I a confident and skilled participant in physical activity?
- How physically active am I?



## RESPONSIBLE

- Do I take action to protect and promote my wellbeing and that of others?
- Do I make healthy eating choices?
- Do I know where my safety is at risk?



## CONNECTED

- Do I feel connected to my school, my friends, my community and the wider world?
- Do I appreciate that my actions and interactions impact on my own wellbeing and that of others, in local and global contexts?



## RESILIENT

- Do I believe that I have the coping skills to deal with life's challenges?
- Do I know where I can go for help?
- Do I believe that with effort I can achieve?



## RESPECTED

- Do I feel that I am listened to and valued?
- Do I have positive relationships with my friends, my peers and my teachers?
- Do I show care and respect for others?



## AWARE

- Am I aware of my thoughts, feelings and behaviours and can I make sense of them?
- Am I aware of what my personal values are and do I think through my decisions?
- Do I understand what helps me to learn and how I can improve?

# Who are L2LPs designed for?

Learners with a low mild to high moderate learning disability

The special needs of this child is such as **to prevent him from accessing some or all of the subjects and short courses** on offer at junior cycle.

A Framework for Junior Cycle, 2015



Level 2 Learning  
Programmes

Guidelines for Teachers

# What are Level 2 Learning Programmes?

- There are 5 Priority Learning Units (PLUs)
- Each PLU focuses on developing the social, personal and pre-vocational skills that prepare students for further study, for work and for life

Communication and  
Literacy

Numeracy

Personal Care

Living in the Community

Preparing for Work

Plus 2 Short Courses





Spirituality  
Ethics

**24 Statements  
of Learning**

**Other Areas of  
Learning**

**Key Skills**

Sports

Guidance and  
Counselling

Pastoral  
Care

Citizenship  
Student Council

Co-curricular  
activities

Visiting Speakers  
Debating