



## Information Note TC 0006/2024

**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 2024/25. To be read in conjunction with Circular 0028/2023.**

#### Purpose of this note

This information note, to be read in conjunction with [Circular 0028/2023, Arrangements for the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle with particular reference to the school year 2023/24](#), supersedes aspects of that circular and sets out updates in Junior Cycle implementation for school year 2024/25.

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

- The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) conducted an early insights review for Junior Cycle Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) between February and March 2023. The report on the early enactment of Junior Cycle MFL identified strengths and challenges.
- In response, NCCA convened a Development Group to progress proposed revisions to the MFL specification. The [draft specification for Junior Cycle Modern Foreign Languages](#) has now been published for public consultation. The consultation period runs from **Friday the 3rd of May** until **Friday the 10th of August**. More details about this consultation can be found [here](#).

#### Assessment Updates



- It was announced in March 2024 that adjustments will be made to assessment arrangements for the students who will undertake their Junior Cycle Examinations in 2025 and 2026. These adjustments will be in line with those made in previous years.
- As a result of these adjustments, students in the cohorts 2022-2025 and 2023-2026 will be required to complete a minimum of one Classroom-Based Assessment and will not be required to complete Assessment Tasks (ATs) in the relevant subjects.
- Detail on the adjusted assessment arrangements for every subject in the Junior Cycle programme will be issued to schools in due course, and schools will be asked to ensure that all students are made aware of these changes.

## Resources and Support Update

- 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.
- While these Management Resource Hours were due to lapse at the end of the 2023/24 school year, the Department has decided, on an interim basis, to continue to allocate these hours under the same allocation model for the school year 2024/25.
- 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 Assessment 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.
- The Department has established a dedicated email account [CBAUPLOADS@education.gov.ie](mailto: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 0028/2023](#).



- The two school closure days during 2024/25, to facilitate whole-school planning and self-evaluation as well as subject-specific Teacher Professional Learning (TPL) will focus on aspects of both Senior Cycle and Junior Cycle planning and subjects respectively. Further information can be found at [www.oide.ie](http://www.oide.ie)

## Reporting Updates

- In order to facilitate the timely production of students' JCPAs, it is necessary for schools to ensure student data on PPOD is up to date and correct prior to the production window opening. The Department advises uploading CBA descriptors on completion of the SLAR process and ensuring updates are made in real time.
- 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.
- The 2024 JCPA will be the last JCPA awarding students who have undertaken the old Junior Certificate Wellbeing syllabi. As a reminder, due to technical constraints, it is not possible to reflect subject descriptors for the old Junior Certificate syllabi in the Wellbeing section of the 2024 JCPA. As a result, schools which provided the Junior Certificate syllabi in CSPE, SPHE and/or PE to students will need 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.

## 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*.



- Three interim reports from this longitudinal study have been published since October 2022. These reports can be found [here](#). The fourth interim and final reports are expected to be published by the end of the year.
- These 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.

**Issued by:** Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit

**Date Issued:** 27 May 2024