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Education and Training
Boards Ireland
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Oiliúna Éireann*

Firhouse Community College Policy
School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students
2020



Coláiste Chill na n-Iníon



Firhouse Community College

School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students 2020

BACKGROUND

Further to the Minister for Education & Skills, Mr Joe McHugh TD's announcement on 10th April 2020 and subsequently on 29th April,

- *All third year Junior Cycle students to be awarded certificates for the completion of Junior Cycle by the Department of Education and Skills.*
- *Schools given autonomy to assess students and all students to receive a report on achievement.*

Schools are also being given autonomy to decide whether to run school-based assessments and what form they take. Options to consider include school-designed examinations, tasks, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations, or other tasks agreed at a local level.

Guidance for schools on reporting to students and parents, developed with the advice of the advisory group of stakeholders, will be published by the Department.

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that Firhouse Community College will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, May 2020* has informed the recommended approach outlined.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. Completion of the assessment process by May 29th.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Firhouse Community College assessment procedures for Junior Cycle students 2020 provide for the following:

Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded.

Where students are engaged in **Junior Cert** a traditional grade will be awarded.



Recognition of Prior Learning is an important part of our assessment process. In line with the overarching principle of flexibility, the following approach to the 3rd year assessment will apply

**Junior Cycle School Report 2020
Junior Cert Subjects (no CBA)**

The final grade will be based on the following:

Mock Exams

3rd Year November Exams

Engagement over the course of the three years of Junior Cycle. This will be based on areas such as:

- Homework
- Classwork
- Assignments
- Projects

**Junior Cycle School Report 2020
Junior Cycle Subjects**

The final descriptor will be based on the following:

Mock Exams

3rd Year November Exams

Engagement over the course of the three years of Junior Cycle. This will be based on areas such as:

- Homework
- Classwork
- Assignments
- Projects
- Classroom Based Assessments

Classroom Based Assessments will be reported on through the relevant descriptor



Junior Cycle School Report 2020
Junior Cert/Cycle Subjects with a Practical Component

The final grade/ descriptor will be based on the following:

Practical Component (this will be given the same weighting as in the state exam)

Mock Exams

3rd Year November Exams

Engagement over the course of the three years of Junior Cycle. This will be based on areas such as:

- Homework
- Classwork
- Assignments
- Projects
- Classroom Based Assessments (in the relevant subjects)

Junior Cycle School Report 2020

Wellbeing:

Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)

Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE)

Physical Education (PE)

Reporting on students' learning in Wellbeing aims to provide a picture of what students have learned about Wellbeing and the skills they have developed to support their Wellbeing.

Assessment and reporting in Wellbeing is not about teachers assessing or reporting on the student's subjective state of wellbeing. The focus is on gathering evidence and reporting on what the student has learned about Wellbeing.

Teachers will reflect this learning through a comment on the report.



All components to be completed and marked by May 29th, 2020. An assessment report will issue electronically on week of 8th June.

This decision was informed by the DES Guidelines (issued April 29th, 2020)

To ensure equity, greater weighting should be given to work that was completed by students in advance of the closure of schools on 12 March 2020.

Cognisance may be given to work completed after that date but teachers should have regard to the impact that school closure will have had on students' ability to engage with further learning after 12 March 2020 and their ability to complete any additional assessment tasks.

For example, some students may be unable to undertake any additional assessment tasks because of issues arising from the Covid-19 crisis. In such circumstances, the assessment of the students' learning, and the report of their achievement issued by the school, may be based solely on work completed prior to 12 March 2020.

Principal: <i>Senan Nolan</i>	Date: 8th May 2020
Chair (BOM): <i>Paul Mulhern</i>	Date: 8 th May 2020