



**OUR
LADY'S
SCHOOL**
TERENURE

School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students 2021

Ratified by the Board of Management on 19th April 2021

Signed

Date: 19th April 2021

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed

Date: 19th April 2021

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students 2021

BACKGROUND

On 17th February 2021, the Minister for Education & Skills, Ms. Foley's announced that "*the Junior Cycle examinations will not be run in 2021.*"

Further to this announcement the publication of the **Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning- Junior Cycle 2021** (March 9th, Updated March 15th) confirmed the decision that:

In 2021, Junior Cycle students' progress and learning achievements will be recognised through a dual form of certification designed to meet the current exceptional circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

For each student certification will involve two elements:

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.

The assessment of students' learning and achievements will take place at school level. Drawing on teachers' professional knowledge, schools 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 are also being given autonomy to decide on what format school-based assessments will 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 Our Lady's School will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021. The DES Guidelines for Schools, **Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning- Junior Cycle 2021** (March 9th) has informed the recommended approach outlined.

OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. The range of evidence should include both formative and summative assessment activities undertaken by students for their Junior Cycle.
5. Completion of the assessment process by May 21st.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Our Lady's School assessment procedure for Junior Cycle students 2021 provide for the inclusion of the following components

- Recognition of Prior Learning
- May 2021 Assessment

| Junior Cycle School Report 2021 | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Recognition of Prior Learning | May 2021 Assessment |
| <i>Total Weighting: 50%</i> | <i>Total Weighting: 50%</i> |

As students are completing the full suite of **Junior Cycle** Subjects a Grade Descriptor will be awarded. All components to be completed and marked by May 28th, 2021. An assessment report will be issued electronically using the VSware platform during the week beginning June 7th.

BREAKDOWN of ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. Recognition of Prior Learning

The recognition of Prior Learning is an important part of our assessment process. In line with the overarching principle of flexibility, the following approach will apply:

The final Grade Descriptor will be awarded for:

- Learning from 2nd and 3rd Year – House February & Summer Exams together with Mid-Term Assessments in 3rd Year which took place in November and March.
- Summer 2021 assessment

| EXAMPLE: Recognition of Prior Learning Component: | |
|--|---|
| <i>Total Weighting</i> | 50% |
| <i>Elements of Prior Learning Recognised</i> | Learning from 2nd and 3rd Year – House February & Summer Exams together with Mid-Term Assessments in 3rd Year which took place in November and March. |

2. May 2021 Assessment

Subject to public health advice, we intend hosting in-house assessments for 3rd Years in May. Students will be advised of the format of each subject assessment by their teachers.

Assessment Components

| |
|---|
| 1. RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING OPTIONS <i>Total Weighting - 50%</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence available from tests, from House Examinations completed in 2nd Year together with Mid-Term Assessments in 3rd Year which took place in November and March.• CBAs that have been completed and examined through the SLAR process will be reported on. <p><small>* Any student who has dropped level since 2nd Year will have their result changed to an Ordinary Level grade in line with the appropriate conversion</small></p> |
| 2. MAY 2021 ASSESSMENT <i>Total Weighting - 50%</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will sit school designed assessments set to a timetable this May.• Students will be advised of the format of each subject assessment by their teachers. |

Communication to Parents

Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2021



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OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. The range of evidence should include both formative and summative assessment activities undertaken by students for their Junior Cycle.
4. Transparency.
5. Completion of the assessment process by May 21st. An assessment report will issue electronically using the VShare platform during the week beginning June 7th 2021

- A final grade descriptor will be awarded for each subject based on the Recognition of Prior Learning and the May 2021 Assessment
- The final assessment grade will be assigned based on the outcome of the results achieved through the following area(s)

| Junior Cycle School Report 2020 | |
|---|--|
| Recognition of Prior Learning Component for the period of 2018 to 2021 | May 2021 Assessment |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence available from tests, from House Examinations completed in 2nd Year together with Mid-Term Assessments in 3rd Year which took place in November and March. • CBAs that have been completed and examined through the SLAR process will be reported on. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will sit school designed assessments set to a timetable this May. |
| <i>Total Weighting: 50%</i> | <i>Total May 2021 Assessment Weighting: 50%</i> |

Appendix 3

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Your daughter needs your support during this challenging time, particularly in terms of engaging with assessment.

Your daughter's wellbeing is paramount at this time. Ensure she is eating healthily, taking time for exercise/activities and striking a balance between schoolwork and downtime.

Assure your daughter that assessments are an opportunity to celebrate their learning.

Be familiar with each subject department's plan for assessment.

Check in regularly to see if your daughter is reaching her targets.

Ensure your daughter has the materials they require for engaging in assessments.

Display relevant information somewhere prominent to help your daughter remain focused for the remainder of the term

If daughter misses a deadline for the key assignments for a genuine reason (illness, broadband issues, etc.) please contact the subject teacher who will endeavour to ensure every student has a fair chance to complete the work.

It is important for parents/guardians to communicate with the school in the event daughter does not engage with an assessment. Measures can be taken to encourage engagement.

Highlight the importance of engaging with assessment at this point in their education. While it may not take the form they had originally anticipated, it is a milestone in their education, and they will want to do their best.

If you have any questions or concerns about your daughter's engagement or progress, please contact the subject teacher who will be delighted to advise and support you.

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

Assessments are an opportunity to celebrate your learning.

Engage with your teachers and your classes for the remainder of the term.

Be aware of your assessment timetable. Know exactly when you have assessments. Print your timetable and place it in a prominent place where you study at home.

Communicate with your teachers if you are unclear about arrangements.

While the format of the assessment may differ from what you expected, it is still important, and you should give it your very best shot.

Organise the materials/books/technology you need for your study and preparation in advance. Do not leave it until the last minute.