**A Framework for Junior Cycle**

**Curriculum Specifications – 21 subjects Page 11**

**Subjects. Level 3**

1. Gaeilge, English and Mathematics = 240 hours over three years. **Minimum. (3S)**

80 hours per academic year.

480 Minutes class contact or 120 x 40 minute lessons per annum

1. Other Subjects. 200 hours over three years. 66.6 hours per year **minimum. (OS)**

3996 minutes class contact

Circa 100 x 40 minute lessons per annum

1. Short courses. Page 13. **Approximately** 100m hours over two or three years. **(SC)**

‘Off the Shelf’ Short Courses - NCCA developed x 8

Specification – Locally developed

Maximum of 4 to be included for certification

100 hours = 6000 minutes = 150 x 40 minute lessons over

2 years = 75 per year or over

3 years = 50 per year.

1. Priority Learning Units **(PLU)** Level 2

**Approximately** 250 hours.

Small number eg. 1-2 in a school page 14.

All students have individual education plans (IEP)

General Learning Difficulty – Mild = level 3

1. Other Learning Experiences. **(OLE)**

Examples would include:

Guidance

Pastoral care

Elements of religious education

Other specific learning Initiatives /Pursuits/Activites. (Not Short Courses)

**Possible School Time Table**

**Minimum Time Allocated as per JC Framework Document**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Subject /Short Course | Lessons per week @ 40 Min. Periods | Total  Periods/Hours | 28 Hours Class contact |
| 1 | Gaeilge | 4 |  |  |
| 2 | English | 4 |  |  |
| 3 | Mathematics | 4 | 12/8 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 4 | Options: Subject | 3 |  |  |
| 5 | Subject | 3 |  |  |
| 6 | Subject | 3 |  |  |
| 7 | Subject | 3 |  |  |
| 8 | Subject | 3 | 15/10 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 9 | Short Course | 1.5 |  |  |
| 10 | Short Course | 1.5 |  |  |
| 11 | Short Course | 1.5 |  |  |
| 12 | Short Course | 1.5 | 6/4 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 13 | OEE Guidance | 1 |  |  |
| 14 | OEE Pastoral Care | 1 |  |  |
| 15 | OEE Elements of Religious Educ. | 1 | 3/2 |  |
|  |  |  | 36/24 | 28 |
|  | Balance |  |  | 6/4 |

**Assessment 1**

* School Based Assessment Approach
* Focus on the Process and Product of learning
* Close as possible to the Point of Learning
* Feedback based on :

Sources of Evidence = questioning, tests, project work, Presentations, experiments.

NCCA Assessment and moderation Toolkit will be available to teachers.

* Students review their own progress.

Informed conversation with parents

Aligned with learning outcomes for Subjects, Short Courses and Priority Learning Units

**Assessment 2**

**Specifications**

* On-going Classroom assessment
* Standardised testing. English reading, Mathematics and Science. National relativity Evidence re: the system
* School Work Component. Final 2 years of the Junior cert. for certification
* Final assessment.

Subjects set by the State examinations commission (SEC) initially and Administered and marked locally

Gaeilge, English and mathematics Set , Administered and marked by the SEC for a few years until Standardised testing is established.

* Assessment of Short courses and Priority learning Units Locally marked and no moderated. Page 23
* New Arrangements for reporting to parents. Page 23
* Assessment results for certification will come mostly from schools and the Certificates will be awarded by schools

* NCCA Supports:

Subject and short Course Specifications

Assessment and Moderation toolkit

New reporting |system

Principals and teachers continuing professional development

**Assessment 3**

* New school based assessment System will mirror the phased introduction of subjects.
* As new subjects are phased in, 40% of marks will be awarded for school work completed during years 2 and 3 of the JC and assessed locally by teachers.
* 60% of marks will be awarded for Final assessment set by the SEC and marked locally by teacher in school

* Examples of School work for 40% assessment

Assignments

Projects

Case studies

Performances

Spoken word / oral work – languages

Practical s activities – Art, technical graphics, science etc.

Written pieces

Tests / tasks

* During First Year:

Work not included in assessment

Focus on Consolidation

Ease transition

Develop literacy and numeracy.

**Assessment 4.**

* Gaeilge , English and mathematics. Two hour examination, conducted in June with Leaving Certificate candidates, marked by the SEC and included on School certificate.
* Other Subjects: Two hour examination, conducted during regular school time in May, marked in school by teacher and included on School Certificate
* Short Courses: All marks are awarded or school work only, possibly more than one assessment component, internal moderation and Grade awarded will be on the school certificate
* Internal Moderation Page 24. Teachers of the subject in the school or across a cluster of schools eg. where there is only one teacher of a subject in the school

* The reporting System: Will be introduced in 2017 with the first school certificate being awarded. Grades: Not achieved (0-39), Achieved (40 -54), Achieved with merit (55-74), Achieved with Higher Merit (75-89) and achieved With Distinction ( 90-100)
* Other Learning Experiences Page 16 and Page 24. May include:

Comments on student achievement

Other Learning Experiences

Advice on Further development

Attendance

Personal and social development

Learning dispositions

Opportunity for Parent and student to comment.

* Appeals : Page 25

SEC for centrally examined subjects

School will deal e with Appeal s process as the school based system is operated in the school

* Time Frame: New Reporting System

2017 New school certificate and report on Other Learning Experiences.

Figure 3 Page 25 and Appendix 2 Page 39

**Quality Assurance 1**

* Subject Specifications
* Teacher CPD on:

Educational Assessment

Moderation

Feedback to Students

* Principal and Deputy Principal CPD Page 26 on:

Curriculum Leadership

Educational assessment

Moderation

Change management

* New Reporting System

Generation of the evidence of Learning

Reporting of evidence of learning

* Standardised tests

Relative to age cohort

Available to parents

Available to DES

* In school Moderation: professional dialogue between teacher in a school page 26

**Quality Assurance 2**

* At the end of the JC the SEC will provide final assessment papers and marking schemes for subjects
* The SEC will mark the Gaeilge, English and Mathematics examinations

* School work. Internal moderation formally confirmed by the principal. Page 27.
* Results sent by schools to the DES

National patterns analyses by DES

For Quality assurance examine any anomalies

* ‘Data Profiles’ for schools from DES

Patterns – end of year 2

Patterns of achievement in relation to schools with a similar school context

This will be information for schools for School Self Evaluation process.

* Unusual patterns = Inspectorate will be advised to advised to support and evaluate much schools with for Example:

Data from the Professional development service for teachers (PDST)

Additional CPD from the PDST

Moderation meetings

External sup[port at moderation

Evaluation of Teaching, learning and assessment in the school

* Sample National assessment s for Junior Certificate
* Participation in PISA
* Evaluation through School Self Evaluation
* CPD: Reflecting change approaches by the school, the management and the principal Page 28.