

JUNIOR CYCLE

At present St. Killian's College offers the following programmes:

Junior Cycle Subjects

Core Subjects	Short Courses	Optional Subjects
English	SPHE	Music
Gaeilge	CSPE	Art
Maths	PE	Home Economics
Science	Career Guidance	Engineering
History	Computers	Wood Technology
		Graphics
		Business
		Geography
		Modern Foreign Language

Optional subjects run as a taster programme during the first 4 weeks of school. This provides our students with the opportunity to sample all of the subjects on offer and make an informed decision about the subjects they would like to study.

Assessment & Junior Cycle Key Skills

Junior Cycle assessment involves both continuous and final assessment in the form of Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) in 2nd and 3rd year and a final State Examination at the end of 3rd year. CBAs allow for demonstration of skills in more diverse ways than a traditional exam, such as projects, practical work, or artistic performances. Student's achievements in both the CBA's and State Exams are recorded on their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA), along with other areas of learning and other areas of wellbeing.



Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)

Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) have been introduced to allow students to demonstrate their understanding of concepts and skills and their ability to apply them in ways that may not be possible in an externally assessed examination. They are used in the assessment of learning in subjects and in short courses. Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) will be assessed by the students' teachers and reported on to students and parents/guardians during Junior Cycle and in the JCPA.

- They contribute to and build on the use of formative assessment in the classroom happen during normal class time
- They resemble the learning that happens on a daily basis
- They capture the knowledge and skills that are not easily assessed in a timed pen and paper type examination
- They are assessed at a common level by the class teacher.
- Each subject has a CBA, some subjects are completed in 2nd year and a some in 3rd year. These could range from project tasks, oral language tasks and investigations, to practical or designing and making tasks, field studies and artistic performances.
- Parents/guardians and student will receive a detailed CBA calendar in both 2nd and 3rd year.

Reporting Descriptors for Junior Cycle CBA's

- Exceptional
- Above expectations
- In line with expectations
- Yet to meet expectations

Final Examination

The final examination takes place in June. The key points to note are:

- All exams are no longer than two hours' duration
- Students take a maximum of ten subjects
- All subjects available at a common level apart from English, Mathematics and Irish where there will be two levels (Higher and Ordinary)
- Reporting Descriptors for Junior Cycle as per table below

Distinction	≥ 85 TO 100
Higher Merit	≥ 70 and < 85
Merit	≥ 55 and < 70
Achieved	≥ 40 and < 55
Partially Achieved	≥ 20 and < 40
Not Graded (NG)	≥ 0 and < 20

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)

Student achievements are now reported to students and parents/guardians on the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA will capture the different assessment elements undertaken over the three years of junior cycle, including the grades which are issued by the State Examinations Commission (SEC). The JCPA captures any combination of the following: CBA's, Short Courses, State Certified Examination (including the Assessment Task), L2LP, L1LP and other areas of learning.

Other Areas of Learning (OALs) is a report on other learning experiences and events that the student has participated in during curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular aspects of the Junior Cycle Programme school.

The school may also wish to include broader aspects of reporting in this section, or areas such as attendance, personal and social development and learning dispositions.

Students will be responsible, with guidance and framed supports from their teacher, for identifying three to five other areas of learning which are linked to the statements of learning and key skills of the Junior Cycle.

From 2020 onwards, engagement with PE, SPHE and CSPE will be recorded under the new Wellbeing section of the JCPA.