

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí

Junior **CYCLE**
for teachers

Mhúinteoirí

CLE
achers

Junior Cycle

Information for Parents



"Education is the most
powerful weapon which
you can use to change
the world."

- Nelson Mandela

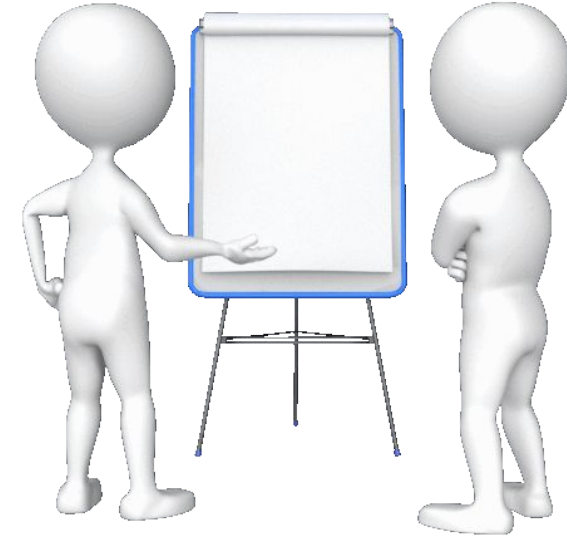




Overview

1. Our students
2. Structure of the Junior Cycle
3. Subjects, Short Courses and Other Learning Experiences
4. Assessment and Reporting
5. Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

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Our Students

Literacy
and
numeracy
for learning
and life

Connecting
primary and
secondary

Settling in
and making
progress in
first year

A purposeful
second year



Ongoing
assessment to
support
learning



What is the purpose of education in Junior Cycle?

- Help students become better learners and develop a love of learning
- Provide a solid foundation for further study
- To develop skills for learning and life
- To support learning through improved working to both students and parents

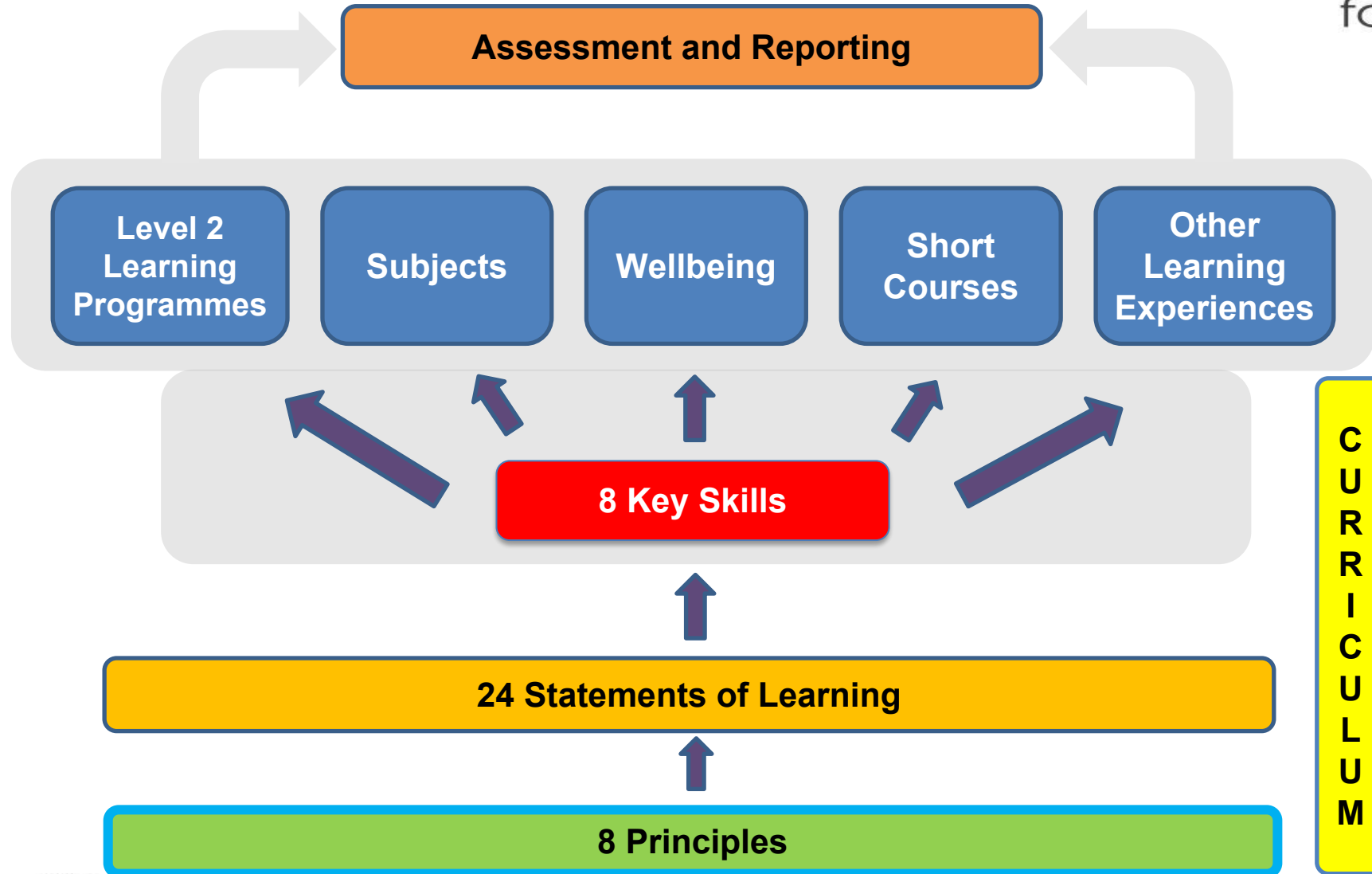
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Structure of the Junior Cycle

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Your child in First-year

Sept 2015

English
Short Courses

Sept 2016

English
Science
Business Studies
Short Courses

Sept 2017

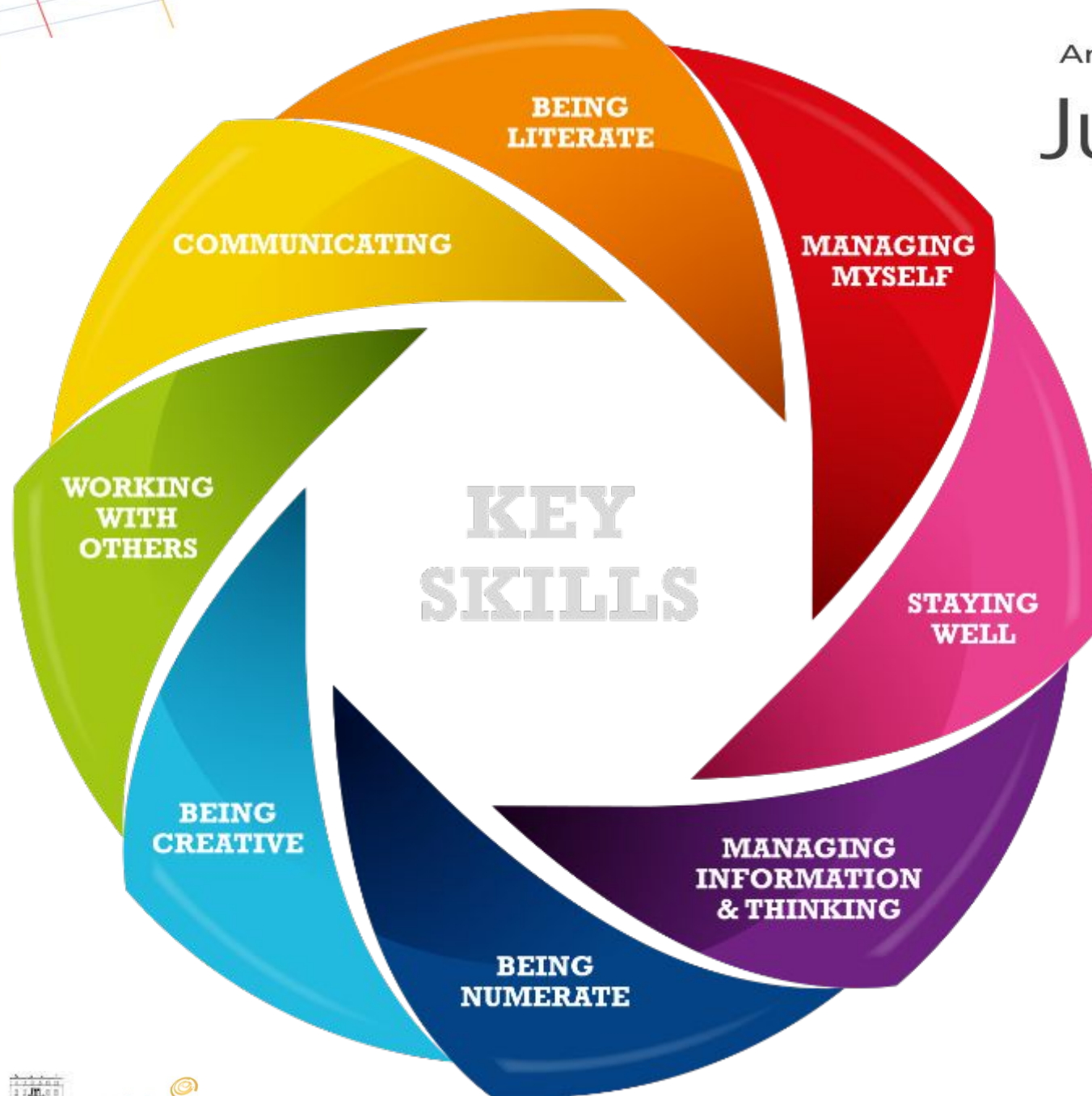
English
Science
Business Studies
Irish
Art, Craft &
Design
Modern
Languages
Short Courses

What stays the same?

- Students experience a broad and balanced curriculum
- Standards and expectations remain high
- Subjects continue to play an important role in the Junior Cycle
- The Department of Education and Skills will monitor quality across all schools
- The State Examinations Commission will continue to be involved in assessment for certification

What is improving?

- A better and a more engaging learning experience for your child
- Updated subject specifications
- Quality reporting back to parents and students
- Assessment to support learning
- An emphasis on Key Skills and preparation for life
- A sound preparation for learning at Senior Cycle and beyond





Mathematics
Science
Home Economics
Business Studies

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Music
Art, Craft and Design
Classics
Religious Education

History
Geography
Jewish Studies

24 Statements
of Learning

Subjects

Key Skills

English
German
Irish
Spanish
French
Italian

Technical Graphics
Materials Technology Wood
Technology
Metalwork



Coding

Artistic
Performance

Physical Education

24 Statements
of Learning

Chinese Language
and Culture

Digital Media Literacy

Short
Courses

Social, Personal and
Health Education

Civic, Social and
Political Education

A Personal Project:
Caring for Animals

Exploring Forensic
Science

Key Skills

Philosophy

Wellbeing

300 - 400 hours over 3 years

- Physical Education
- Social, Personal and Health Education (including Relationship and Sexuality Education)
- Civic, Social and Political Education
- Other areas such as guidance





Co-curricular
activities

Visiting Speakers
Debating

Spirituality
Ethics

24 Statements
of Learning

Other Learning
Experiences

Key Skills

Sports

Guidance and
Counselling

Pastoral Care

Citizenship
Student Council

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‘The purpose of assessment at this stage of education is to support learning’.

A changing assessment culture

- Assessment in support of learning
- Assessment focused on offering effective feedback
- Greater variety of assessment activity - “fit for purpose” and relevant to students
- Teachers talking to teachers about assessment
- Building capacity, knowledge and confidence in assessment, in schools

Your child will be involved in

- Reviewing feedback and identifying what they have done well
- Identifying what to do next
- Setting and achieving personal goals
- Redrafting and correcting their own work
- Giving feedback to others
- Considering examples of good work and identifying how they can improve on their own work