

Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2021



INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that COOLA PPS will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021. The DES Guidelines for Schools, Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, March 15th 2021 has informed the agreed approach outlined. In formulating this policy Staff and the Board of Management took into consideration the following three important points from the guidelines:

- To ensure equity, greater weighting should be given to work that was completed by students in advance of the closure of schools on 18 December 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 18 December 2020 and their ability to complete any additional assessment tasks.
- In extreme cases 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 18 December 2020.

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. Completion of the assessment process by 21st May 2021
- A final grade/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 2021	
Recognition of Prior Learning Component for the period of September 2019 – 18 th December 2020	May 10 th – 21 st 2021 Assessment
Any one or combination of the evidence as listed below can be used, depending on the subject. Evidence available from assignments, tests, tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year. 	Any one or combination of the assessment tools listed below can be used, depending on the subject. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School-designed examinations, tasks, reflective task, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations or other tasks chosen by the teacher from the range of approaches agreed at school level
Total Weighting: 80%	Total Weighting: 20%

Coola PPS teachers will issue an assessment activity to students between May 10th – 21st, 2021. Students will be advised of the format and duration of each subject assessment by their teacher.

In the event that a student may be unable to undertake any additional assessment tasks (May assessments) because of issues arising from the Covid 19 crisis, the assessment of the students' learning, and the report of their achievement issued by the school, may/will be based solely on work completed prior to 18 December 2020.

An assessment report will issue electronically the week beginning 14/06/2021.

- 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.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Your young person needs your support during this challenging time, particularly in terms of engaging with assessment.
- Your young person's wellbeing is paramount at this time. Ensure he/she is eating healthily, taking time for exercise/activities and striking a balance between schoolwork and downtime.
- Assure your young person that assessments are an opportunity to celebrate their learning.
- Be familiar with each subject department's plan for assessment. Teachers will inform their students of this.
- Check in regularly to see if your young person is reaching his/her targets.
- Ensure your young person has the materials they require for engaging in assessments.
- Display relevant information somewhere prominent to help your young person remain focused for the remainder of the term.
- If your young person misses a deadline for the key assignments for a genuine reason (illness, broadband issues, etc.) please contact the subject teacher or Year Head, who will endeavour to ensure every student has a fair chance to complete/submit the work.
- It is important for parents/guardians to communicate with the school (coolapps@msletb.ie) in the event your young person 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 young person's engagement or progress, please notify the subject teacher or Year Head via Teams. Every effort will be made to advise and support you.

Coola PPS values your support to date and requests your assistance in maintaining the integrity of the May 2021 Assessment, by ensuring that the instructions issued with each assessment are followed.

ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

- Assessments are an opportunity to celebrate your learning.
- Engage with your teachers and your assessments for the remainder of the term.
- Organise a workspace that will help you to concentrate on the task in hand.
- Be aware that your assessments must be completed from May 11th to May 21st.
- 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 assessments in advance. There are a limited number of laptops available to borrow from the school if needed to complete your assessments. Please contact your Year Head if you need a device and the school will endeavour to help.

This Policy was adopted and reviewed by the Board of Management on __
_____ (date)

Signed: _____

Chairperson of the B.O.M.

Signed: _____

Principal/Secretary of the B.O.M.

Date: _____

Date: _____