

**Bord Oideachais agus Oiliuna Mhaigh Eo, Shligigh agus Liatroma  
MAYO, SLIGO AND LEITRIM EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**



**COOLA POST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

RIVERSTOWN, via BOYLE, CO.SLIGO. TELEPHONE (071) 91 65365 FAX (071) 91 65869  
email: [coolapps@msletb.ie](mailto:coolapps@msletb.ie)

Principal: Mr Damien McGoldrick

Deputy Principal: Mr Michael Rooney

6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents,

Please find attached the Coola PPS Junior Cert Assessment Policy 2020. This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 2020.

The assessment will be divided into two sections;

1. Work done in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year up to March 12<sup>th</sup> 2020 will be worth 80% of the total mark/grade per subject.
2. An assessment which will be completed between May 11<sup>th</sup> and May 22<sup>nd</sup> will be worth 20% of the total mark/grade per subject.

The combination of the two marks will form the overall grade on the Junior Cycle School Report.

**It is important to note that the May assessments can be completed in a short space of time.** The aim of these assessments is to enable students showcase their ability.

From May 11<sup>th</sup> onwards, teachers will be assigning a task/piece of work to be completed by May 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the period May 11<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Third Year students will focus on each subject assessment, thus there will be no online teaching and learning during this period.

If you have any queries or need further clarification, please contact the school at [coolapps@msletb.ie](mailto:coolapps@msletb.ie)

Yours Sincerely,

Damien McGoldrick



## Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2020



### INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that COOLA PPS will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, April 29th 2020* 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 12 March 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 12 March 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 12 March 2020.*

### OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

The guidelines provide for:

1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. Completion of the assessment process by May 29<sup>th</sup>.

- A final grade/grade descriptor will be awarded for each subject based on the Recognition of Prior Learning and the May 2020 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 September 2018 - March 12 <sup>th</sup> 2020	May 11 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup> 2020 Assessment
<p><i>Any one or combination of the evidence as listed below can be used, depending on the subject.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence available from assignments, tests, tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year.</li> <li>• Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Any one or combination of the assessment tools listed below can be used, depending on the subject.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
Total Weighting: 80%	Total Weighting: 20%

Coola PPS teachers will issue an assessment activity electronically on the Office 365 platform via Teams from May 11<sup>th</sup> which is to be returned electronically by May 22<sup>nd</sup>, or by post on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 2020. 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 12 March 2020.*

An assessment report will issue electronically the week beginning 08/06/2020.

- 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.

Principal: <i>Daniel McGoldrick</i>	Date: <i>6-5-2020</i>
Chair (BOM): <i>Seamus Higgins</i>	Date: <i>6-5-20</i>



## 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](mailto: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 2020 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 11<sup>th</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- 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.