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***Davitt College
School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle
(3rd Year) Students 2020***

Adopted by the Davitt College Board of Management on 8th May 2020



School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle (3rd Year) Students 2020

BACKGROUND

Further to the Minister for Education & Skills, Mr Joe McHugh TD's announcement on 10th April 2020 and subsequently on 29th April,

- All third year Junior Cycle students to be awarded certificates for the completion of Junior Cycle by the Department of Education and Skills.
- Schools given autonomy to assess students and all students to receive a report on achievement.

Schools are also being given autonomy to decide whether to run school-based assessments and what form they take. Options to consider include school-designed examinations, tasks, projects, assignments, essay style questions, presentations, or other tasks agreed at a local level. Guidance for schools on reporting to students and parents, developed with the advice of the advisory group of stakeholders, will be published by the Department.

INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that **Davitt College** will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, May 2020* and following consultation with all teachers has informed the recommended approach outlined.

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 29th 2020.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Davitt College assessment procedure for Junior Cycle students 2020 provides for the inclusion of the following components:

- Recognition of Prior Learning
- May 2020 Assessment (an element of which may include a reflection on subject learning)

Junior Cycle School Report 2020	
Recognition of Prior Learning Component	May 2020 Short Assessment (not in excess of 30 minutes)
Total Weighting: 90%	Total May 2020 Assessment Weighting: 10%

Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded.

Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cert** Subject a traditional grade will be awarded.

All components to be completed and marked by May 29th, 2020. An assessment report will issue by post during June 2020.



BREAKDOWN of ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

1. Recognition of Prior Learning

The recognition of Prior Learning is an important part of our assessment process. In line with the overarching principle of flexibility, the following approach will apply:

The final Grade / Grade Descriptor will be awarded for:

- Learning from September 2018 – March 12th, 2020 (2nd year and 3rd year)

EXAMPLE: Recognition of Prior Learning Component:	
<i>Total Weighting</i>	90% /Grade Descriptor
<i>Elements of Prior Learning Recognised</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence available from assignments, tests (both continuous assessment & end of term house exams), tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year• Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year <p><i>Any one or combination of the above could be utilised. This list is not exhaustive.</i></p>

This decision was informed by the DES Guidelines (issued April 29th, 2020)

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.

For example, 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.

2. May 2020 Assessment

Davitt College will issue an assessment activity electronically / by post to be completed in May 2020 and returned electronically / by post by Monday, 25th May 2020.

The total weighting for this component will be 10%. **The assessment should not be in excess of 30 minutes in consideration of the wellbeing of students.**

Students will be advised of the format and duration of each subject assessment.

Please see Appendix 1 for suggested assessment components



Appendix 1 – Examples of Assessment Components

1. RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING OPTIONS

- Evidence available from assignments, tests (both continuous assessment & end of term house exams), tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year
- Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year

Any one or combination of the above could be utilised. This list is not exhaustive.

2. MAY 2020 ASSESSMENT OPTIONS (not in excess of 30 minutes)

- School-designed examinations
- Tasks
- Projects - to include practical tasks
- Assignments
- Essay style questions
- Presentations
- Other tasks chosen by the teacher from the range of approaches agreed at school level.

Any one or combination of the above could be utilised. This list is not exhaustive.



Appendix 2 – Policy Communication to Parents

<h3>Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2020</h3>	
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INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that **Davitt College** will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle (3rd Year) students, 2020. The DES Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning at Junior Cycle, May 2020* and following consultation with all teachers has informed the recommended approach outlined.

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 29th. An assessment report will issue electronically/by post during June 2020.

- 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 areas:

Junior Cycle School Report 2020	
Recognition of Prior Learning Component for the period of September 2018 to 12 th March 2020	May 2020 Assessment
<p><i>Any one or combination of the evidence as listed below will be used, depending on the subject.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence available from assignments, tests (both continuous assessment & end of term house exams), tasks journals, projects, practical and other work completed over the course of second year and third year • Classroom-Based Assessments completed in second year and third year 	<p><i>Any one or combination of the assessment tools listed below will be used, depending on the subject.</i></p> <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.
<i>Total Weighting: 90%</i>	<i>Total May 2020 Assessment Weighting: 10%</i>

- Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cycle** Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded.
- Where students are engaged in a **Junior Cert** Subject a traditional grade will be awarded.

Principal: Bernie Rowland	Date: 08/05/2020
Chairperson, Board of Management: Kieran Gavin	Date: 08/05/2020



Appendix 3



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.
- 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 who will endeavour to ensure every student has a fair chance to complete the work.
- It is important for parents/guardians to communicate with the school 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 contact the subject teacher who will be delighted to advise and support you.

Davitt College 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.



Appendix 4



ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

- Assessments are an opportunity to celebrate your learning.
- Engage with your teachers and your classes for the remainder of the term.
- Organise a workspace that will help you to concentrate on the task in hand.
- Be aware of your assessment timetable. Know exactly when you have assessments, project deadlines, etc.
- 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. Do not leave it until the last minute.
- Approach your assessments as you would in school
 - ~ Follow school rules (social media, eating, chatting, etc.)
 - ~ Stick to allocated timeframes

Respect the assessment process – it is ‘your own’ work that is being assessed, not ‘work belonging to somebody else’