

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí

Junior **CYCLE**
for teachers

Junior Cycle

Information for Parents

Part 1





For the Presenter

This slide is hidden

The purpose of this PowerPoint Presentation is to provide schools with a comprehensive number of slides that will support them in informing parents about Junior Cycle reform. It is an overview with the key areas highlighted on Slide 4.

You can download and edit this PowerPoint to suit the context in which you are engaging with 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, Wellbeing and Other Areas of Learning
4. Assessment and Reporting
5. Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)

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Our Students

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Connecting
primary
and
secondary

Settling in
and making
progress in
first year

A
purposeful
second year

Ongoing
assessment
to support
learning

Literacy and
numeracy
for learning
and life



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 reporting to both students and parents

What will students experience in Junior Cycle?

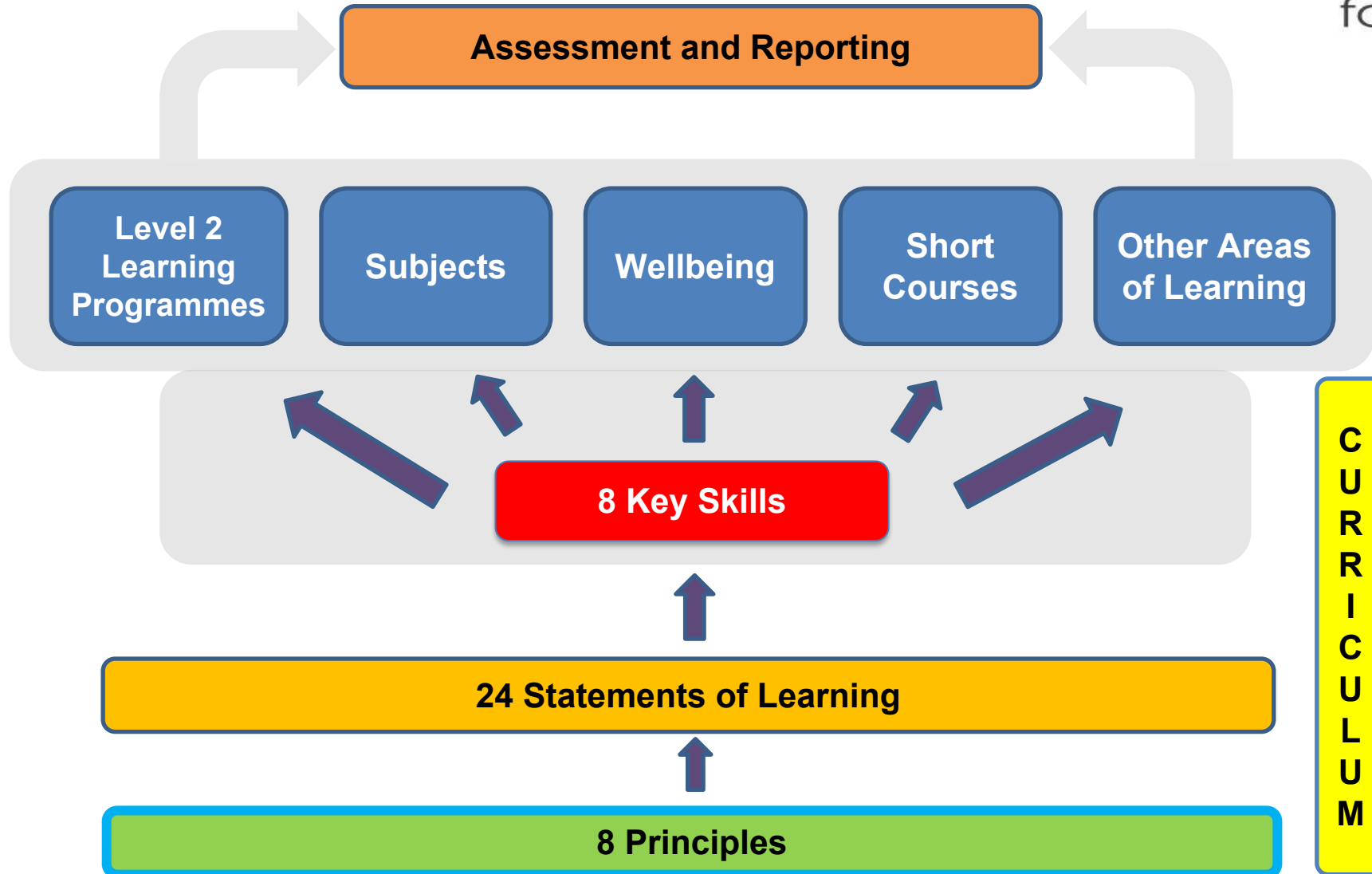
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Structure of the Junior Cycle

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Your child in First-year

Sept 2016

English
Science
Business Studies

Sept 2017

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

Wellbeing

Sept 2018

English
Science
Business Studies
Irish
Art, Craft & Design
Modern Languages
Maths
History
Geography
Music
Home Economics

Wellbeing

Sept 2019

All subjects from 2018 plus

**Materials Technology Wood
Metalwork
Technology
Technical Graphics
Religious Education
Jewish Studies
Classics**

Wellbeing

Furthermore:

- ◆ Other Areas of Learning will also be reported on
- ◆ Schools can offer the **Level 2 Learning Programme**
- ◆ Schools can offer Short Courses

Key Messages of Framework for Junior Cycle 2015

Flexible programme for student learning

Balance between knowledge and skills

Dual approach to assessment

Reporting a broader picture of learning

Student wellbeing is central to the
Framework

Supporting continuity and learning - building
on primary school



Framework for Junior Cycle
2015



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS



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

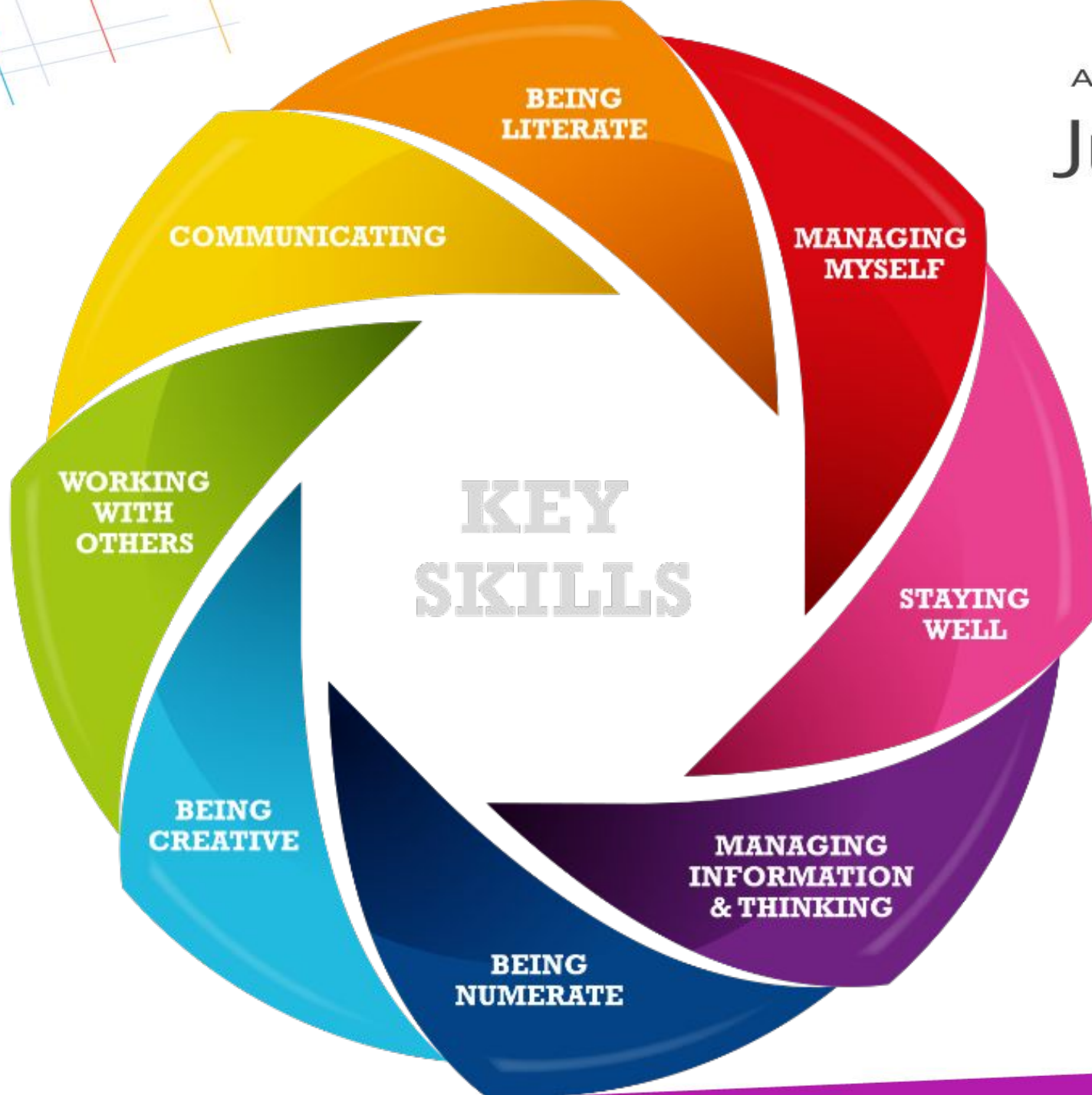
What is improving?

- 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

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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

Short Courses

Level 3

Civic, Social & Political Education
Social Personal Health Education
Physical Education

Coding
Philosophy
Digital Media Literacy

Chinese Language and Culture
Artistic Performance

Level 2

A Personal Project: Caring for Animals
Exploring Forensic Science
Enterprise in Animation

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Wellbeing

300 & moving to 400 hours over 3 years

- Physical Education
- Social, Personal and Health Education (including Relationship and Sexuality Education)
- Civic, Social and Political Education
- Guidance



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**STUDENT
WELLBEING IS AT
THE HEART OF THE
VISION OF A NEW
JUNIOR CYCLE.**

Why does wellbeing matter?

Student wellbeing is present when the students realise their abilities, take care of their physical wellbeing, can cope with the normal stresses of life, and have a sense of purpose and belonging to a wider community.



Building a shared understanding of wellbeing

It is important that the **whole school community** builds and shares a **common understanding** of wellbeing, especially of what we mean when we talk about student wellbeing

Wellbeing for **All**

INDICATORS OF WELLBEING



ACTIVE

- Am I a confident and skilled participant in physical activity?
- How physically active am I?



RESPONSIBLE

- Do I take action to protect and promote my wellbeing and that of others?
- Do I make healthy eating choices?
- Do I know where my safety is at risk



CONNECTED

- Do I feel connected to my school, my friends, my community and the wider world?
- Do I appreciate that my actions and interactions impact on my own wellbeing and that of others, in local and global contexts?



RESILIENT

- Do I believe that I have the coping skills to deal with life's challenges?
- Do I know where I can go for help?
- Do I believe that with effort I can achieve?



RESPECTED

- Do I feel that I am listened to and valued?
- Do I have positive relationships with my friends, my peers and my teachers?
- Do I show care and respect for others?



AWARE

- Am I aware of my thoughts, feelings and behaviours and can I make sense of them?
- Am I aware of what my personal values are and do I think through my decisions?
- Do I understand what helps me to learn and how I can improve?

Who are L2LPs designed for?

Learners with a low mild to high moderate learning disability

The special needs of this child is such as **to prevent him from accessing some or all of the subjects and short courses** on offer at junior cycle.

What are Level 2 Learning Programmes?

- There are 5 Priority Learning Units (PLUs)
- Each PLU focuses on developing the social, personal and pre-vocational skills that prepare students for further study, for work and for life

Communication and
Literacy

Numeracy

Personal Care

Living in the Community

Preparing for Work

Plus 2 Short Courses

Spirituality
Ethics

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Co-curricular
activities

**24 Statements
of Learning**

Guidance and
Counselling

**Other Areas of
Learning**

Pastoral
Care

Visiting Speakers
Debating

Citizenship
Student Council

Key Skills

Sports