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***Davitt College  
School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Students 2021***

**This policy was ratified by  
the Board of Management on  
6<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

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# School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) Students 2021

## BACKGROUND

Further to the Minister for Education, Norma Foley TD's announcement on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021 and the guidelines published,

- All third year Junior Cycle students to be awarded A State Certificate of Completion of the Junior Cycle from the Department of Education.
- 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, have been published by the Department.*

## INTRODUCTION

This document outlines the approach that **Davitt College** will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021. The Department of Education Guidelines for Schools, *Assessment and Reporting on Students' Learning – Junior Cycle 2021, March 2021* 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, 2021.
2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.
3. Transparency.
4. Additional assessments where given will be completed by May 21<sup>st</sup> 2021.

## ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

**Davitt College** assessment procedure for Junior Cycle students 2021 provides for the inclusion of the following components:

- Recognition of Prior Learning in second & third year
- May 2021 End-of-term examination

Junior Cycle School Report 2021	
Recognition of Prior Learning Component	May 2021 End-of-term examination
Total Weighting: 70%	Total Weighting: 30%

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 June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021. An assessment report will issue by post during June 2021.

## 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 2019 – May 2021 (**2<sup>nd</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> year**)

EXAMPLE: Recognition of Prior Learning Component:	
<i>Total Weighting</i>	70% /Grade Descriptor
<i>Elements of Prior Learning Recognised</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evidence already available within the school from assignments, tests, tasks, journals, portfolios, 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 above could be utilised. This list is not exhaustive.</i></p>

Teachers may set a limited number of additional assessments up to 21 May 2021. These assessments should be considered proportionately with existing evidence of students' learning over the programme when reporting to students on their achievements in subjects on the school report.

Cognisance should be taken of the disrupted learning that students have experienced in 2020 and in 2021, and it should be recognised that some students may be unable to undertake such additional assessments because of issues arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 2. May 2021 End-of-term examination

**Davitt College** will administer an end-of-term examination as part of this approach to assessment. Public health guidelines will be followed at all times. This will mean maintaining physical distancing, wearing of masks, hand hygiene and sanitisation to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19. The assessments will be administered to individual class groups in their base classrooms rather than in large assembly style groupings.

The total weighting for this component will be 30%.

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 2021 End-of-term examination

- End-of-term examination within a formal timetable

*Public health guidelines will be followed at all times.*



## Appendix 2 – Policy Communication to Parents

Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2021		
<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p>This document outlines the approach that <b>Davitt College</b> will take in the assessment of Junior Cycle (3<sup>rd</sup> Year) students, 2021. The Department of Education’s Guidelines for Schools, <i>Assessment and Reporting on Students’ Learning – Junior Cycle 2021, March 2021</i> and following consultation with all teachers has informed the recommended approach outlined.</p> <p><b>OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES</b></p> <p>The guidelines provide for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A whole school approach to the assessment of Junior Cycle students, 2021.</li> <li>2. Inclusivity and equity of access by all students.</li> <li>3. Transparency.</li> <li>4. Additional assessments where given will be completed by May 21<sup>st</sup> 2021.</li> </ol>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A final grade/grade descriptor will be awarded for each subject based on the Recognition of Prior Learning and the May 2021 End-of-term examination</li> <li>• The final assessment grade will be assigned based on the outcome of the results achieved through the following areas:</li> </ul>		
<b>Junior Cycle School Report 2021</b>		
<b>Recognition of Prior Learning Component for the period of September 2019 to May 2021</b>	<b>May 2021 End-of-term examination</b>	
<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"> <li>• Evidence already available within the school from assignments, tests, tasks, journals, portfolios, 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End-of-term examination within a formal timetable</li> </ul> <p><i>Public health guidelines will be followed at all times.</i></p>	
<b>Total Weighting: 70%</b>	<b>Total May 2021 Assessment Weighting: 30%</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where students are engaged in a <b>Junior Cycle</b> Subject a Grade Descriptor will be awarded.</li> <li>• Where students are engaged in a <b>Junior Cert</b> Subject a traditional grade will be awarded.</li> </ul>		
<b>Principal:</b> Bernie Rowland		<b>Date:</b> 06/05/2021
<b>Chairperson, Board of Management:</b> Kieran Gavin		<b>Date:</b> 06/05/2021



## 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 2021 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’**