



**Innovation  
& Identity**  
Schools developing Junior Cycle



# A changing junior cycle: what it means for schools

CEIST 2012

Majella O'Shea



<http://ncca.ie/framework/>

# What's the difference?

- A Framework – not rules!
- Greater flexibility and autonomy for schools
- Clarity on junior cycle learning – a different kind of core
- Focus on the programme as well as the exam
- Access to a more varied curriculum/curriculum development
- Teachers in closer relationship with assessment
- Improved feedback, reporting and modern qualifications

# What's core learning?

- What a student will learn described in **statements of learning**
- The skills of **literacy and numeracy** and other **key skills** embedded in learning and the curriculum

## The student

- 1 communicates effectively using a variety of means in a range of contexts in L1<sup>1</sup>
- 2 reaches a level of personal proficiency in L2 and one other language in reading, writing, speaking and listening
- 3 creates, appreciates and critically interprets texts (including written, oral, visual and other texts)
- 4 recognises the potential uses of mathematical knowledge, skills, and understanding in all areas of learning
- 5 uses mathematical knowledge, reasoning and skills in devising strategies for investigating and solving problems
- 6 describes, illustrates, interprets, predicts and explains patterns and relationships
- 7 improves their observation, inquiry, and critical-thinking skills
- 8 develops an understanding of the natural world
- 9 values what it means to be an active citizen, with rights and responsibilities in local and wider contexts
- 10 learns how to think and act sustainably
- 11 understands the distribution of social, economic, and environmental phenomena
- 12 values local and national heritage and recognises the relevance of the past to current national and international issues and events

# More detail on the statements

## 1. has the awareness, knowledge, skills, values and motivation to live sustainably

I understand that the natural world is beautiful and of great significance and importance to the lives of everybody on the planet. I take responsibility for the choices I make about how I live and these choices have consequences for the environment and quality of life in my locality and beyond in the wider world. I try to 'think globally and act locally'. I can help my community play its part in improving our environment but can see that other communities have different concerns and I try to take those into account.

### Subjects:

Business Studies

Geography

Home Economics

Science

### Short courses:

CSPE

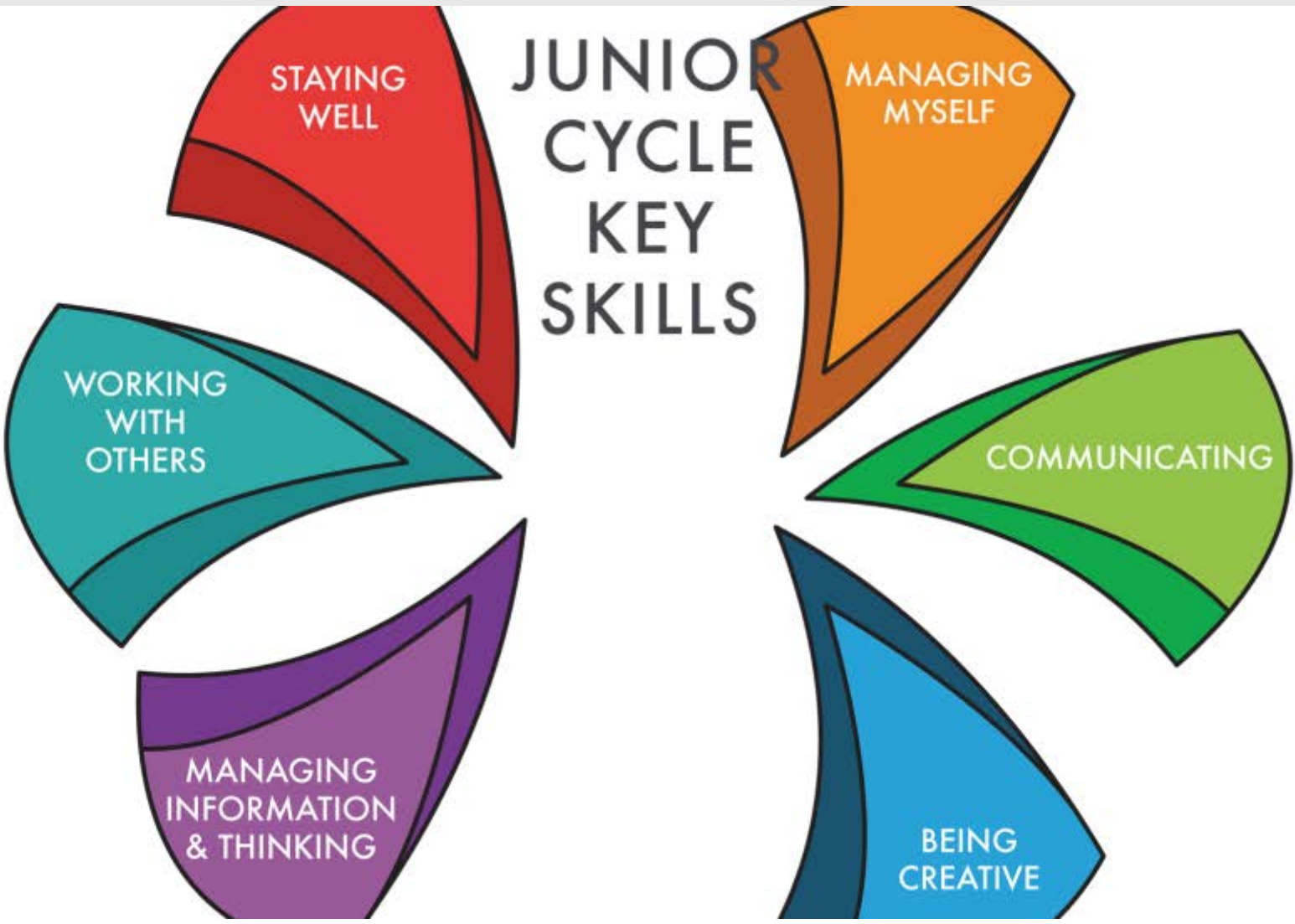
SPHE

Sustainable Development

Education



# JUNIOR CYCLE KEY SKILLS



## MANAGING MYSELF

- Knowing myself
- Making considered decisions
- Setting and achieving personal goals
- Being able to reflect on my own learning
- Using digital technology to manage myself and my learning

## STAYING WELL

- Being healthy, physical and active
- Being social
- Being safe
- Being spiritual
- Being confident
- Being positive about learning

## COMMUNICATING

- Listening and expressing myself
- Using language
- Using numbers and data
- Performing and presenting
- Discussing and debating
- **Using digital technology to communicate**

## BEING CREATIVE

- Imagining
- Exploring options and alternatives
- Implementing ideas and taking action
- Learning creatively
- **Stimulating creativity using digital technology**

## WORKING WITH OTHERS

- Developing good relationships and dealing with conflict
- Co-operating
- Respecting difference
- Contributing to making the world a better place
- Learning with others
- Working with others through digital technology

## MANAGING INFORMATION AND THINKING

- Being curious
- Gathering, recording, organising, and evaluating information and data
- Thinking creatively and critically
- Reflecting on and evaluating my learning
- **Using digital technology to access, manage and share content**





# MANAGING MYSELF

## Elements

## Learning outcomes I can .....

### Knowing myself

- recognise my personal strengths and weaknesses
- identify influences that make me who I am
- express my opinions and feelings appropriately
- find ways of dealing with setbacks and difficulties

### Making considered decisions

- understand the importance of thinking through my decisions
- consider a number of possible consequences when planning and deciding on actions
- listen to different perspectives when considering my options
- choose between different courses of action and explain my choice
- make plans in order to act on my decisions

### Setting and achieving personal goals

- set personal goals
- identify what I need in order to achieve my goals
- ask for help and know where to go when I need help
- prepare detailed plans
- learn from my past actions and make changes if necessary

### Being able to reflect on my learning

- set learning goals and evaluate my progress towards achieving those goals
- receive and make use of feedback on my learning
- assess my own learning and suggest ways that it can be improved

### Using digital technology to manage myself and my learning

- use different technologies to plan, manage and engage in my learning
- express, share and present opinions through the use of digital technology

What's the difference?

Access to a more varied curriculum  
and to curriculum development!

Art Craft Design  
Business Studies  
Classics  
English  
French  
Geography  
German  
History  
Home Economics  
Irish  
Italian  
Jewish Studies  
Materials Technology (Wood)  
Mathematics  
Metalwork  
Music  
Religious Education  
Science  
Spanish  
Technical Graphics  
Technology

## Subjects

Civic, Social and Political Education  
Digital Media  
Social, Personal and Health Education  
Chinese  
Physical Education  
Artistic Performance  
Programming/Coding  
Caring for Animals: A Personal Project

## NCCA SHORT COURSES

## SCHOOL DEVELOPED SHORT COURSES

## Level 2 Qualification

Communicating and Literacy  
Numeracy  
Looking after myself  
Living in a community  
Preparing for work

## Priority Learning Units

## Key skills

Managing myself  
Staying well  
Communicating  
Being creative  
Working with others  
Managing information and thinking.

## Skills

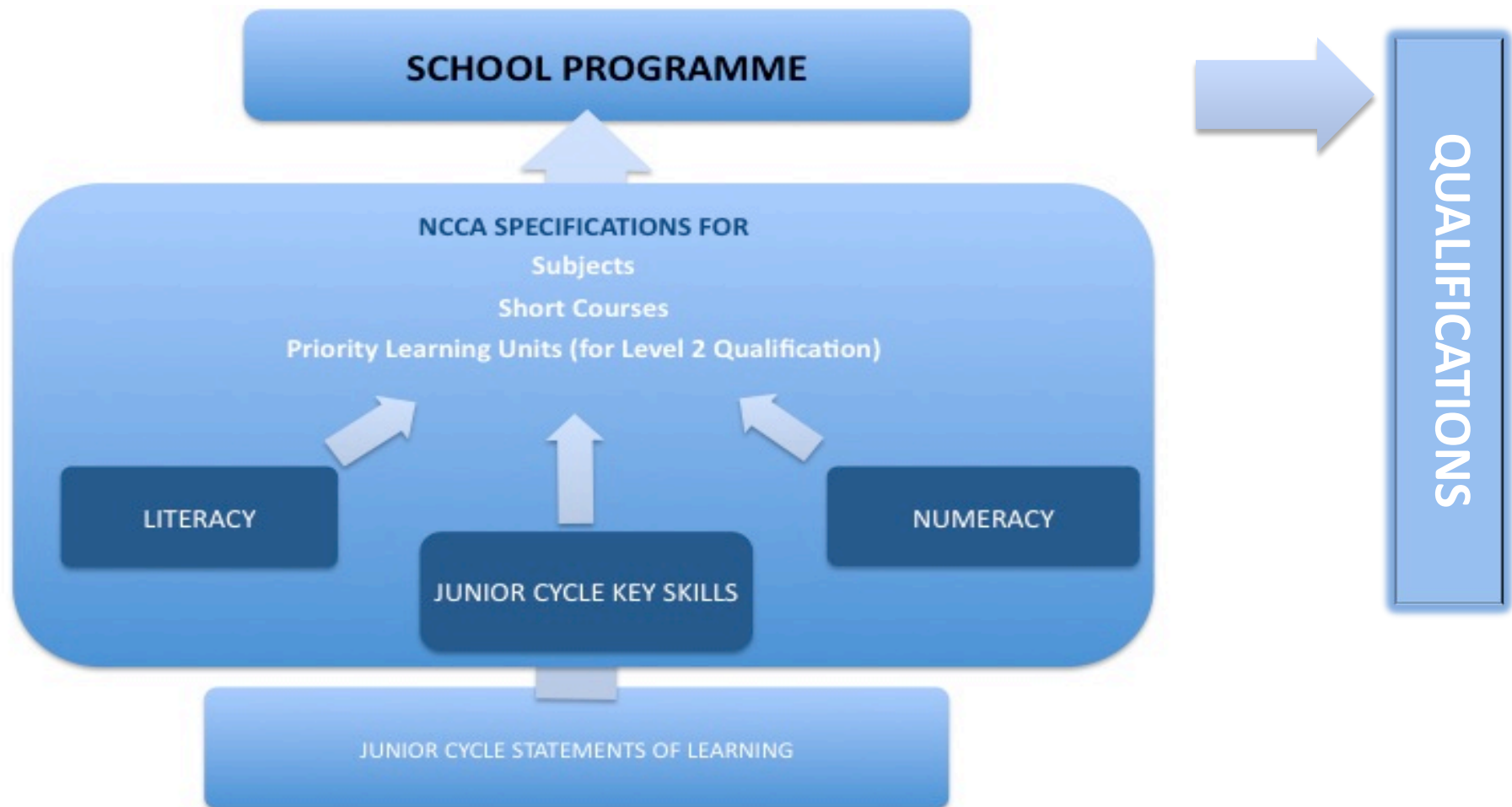
## Literacy

## Numeracy

What's the difference?

Focus on the programme as well as  
the exam!

# A new junior cycle.



What's the difference?

Assessment closer to learning.

Changed assessment relationships.



# Assessment in junior cycle

- Assessment plays a major part in everyday learning over the three years of junior cycle
- Students more responsible for gathering and presenting evidence of their learning
- Teachers give feedback and report on that evidence

# Junior cycle assessment

- Ongoing student assessment to support learning
  - Evidence of learning, feedback
- Assessment for certification/qualification
  - Combination of examination and school work
  - School and teachers at the heart of assessment
- Range of supports and quality assurance
  - professional development, specification, exemplification, system supports, information

# Qualifications

- Qualifications that fit the learning, not just the exam
- Smaller qualifications, giving schools more space and time to spend on their junior cycle programme, on literacy, numeracy and key skills
- Two qualifications

# Junior Cycle developments

- More detail on the *Framework* in October
- Ongoing discussions with DES and SEC on detail
- Template and guidelines for short courses
- Work on JC English specification
- Development of short courses
- Programme planning
- Ongoing posting of FAQ's

# Junior Cycle Conferences

- First conference on assessment
- Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October – 10.30 am
- Main talks streamed live on [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie)
  - Paul Black
  - Neil Emerson, Education Scotland
  - Minister Ruairí Quinn
- Podcasts will be available
- Other conferences on key areas

# JC2.0



Welcome to junior cycle network, JCADMIN!  
Here are a few things you can do right now...



Invite Friends



Add Content



Add Apps

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## /// NEW INVITES


[2 Group Invites](#)


## /// EVENTS

 Meeting for link people  
September 24, 2012 to September 27, 2012 – Venue to be decided  
[0 Comments](#) [1 Like](#)

 Meeting for Link people; Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise  
September 24, 2012 all day – Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise  
[0 Comments](#) [0 Likes](#)

 Meeting for link people: Dublin  
September 27, 2012 all day – Venue to be decided  
[0 Comments](#) [0 Likes](#)

 Junior Cycle Conference on Assessment  
October 4, 2012 from 9am to 2pm – Clock Tower, Department of Education and Skills  
[0 Comments](#) [2 Likes](#)

 Training workshop on developing short courses  
November 5, 2012 all day – TBD  
[1 Comment](#) [0 Likes](#)

## /// NOTES

[Junior Cycle Key Skills](#)



[Read the new Key Skills...](#)

[Continue](#)

Created by JC2.0 Aug 17, 2012 at 5:16pm. Last updated by JC2.0 19 hours ago.

[Events](#)

## Events

Check out our up and coming [events](#) which include a [Conference on Assessment on October 4th](#).

[Continue](#)

Created by JC2.0 Aug 24, 2012 at 11:42am. Last updated by JCADMIN on Thursday.

[September 2012](#)

## Welcome back!

We are looking forward to working together in the coming months. Have a look at the [new resources](#) to help you begin planning.

[Continue](#)



# JC2.0



All Groups My Groups

+ Add

## All Groups (29)






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Sort by: Most Active



#### Timetabling

26 members

Latest Activity: Sep 12

This is a forum for those wishing to discuss or query timetabling issues for the new Junior Cycle.

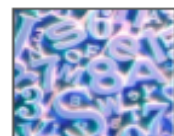


#### Killarney Community College

11 members

Latest Activity: May 21

teachers at killarney community college



#### Literacy and Numeracy

55 members

Latest Activity: yesterday

Hello all. This group has been set up to exchange ideas and the little gems of information that are out there on how to improve the literacy and...



#### Creagh College

3 members

Latest Activity: 7 hours ago

This is the private group for the teachers of Creagh College



#### Short Courses

23 members

Latest Activity: yesterday



#### Castleknock Community College

10 members

Latest Activity: 18 hours ago

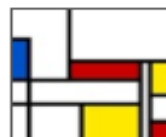
The teachers of Castleknock Community College



#### Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne

5 members

Latest Activity: Jun 21



#### Art

8 members

Latest Activity: 11 hours ago



#### Physical Education

10 members

Latest Activity: Aug 30



#### English

22 members

Latest Activity: on Thursday

# What does this mean for our school?



# Getting ready for 2014

- Planning for a new junior cycle that suits the needs of our school
- First subject to change – English in 2014
- Other subjects change on a phased basis
- Planning ideas and tools available shortly

# Some ideas for getting started

- Consulting with students
- Looking at short courses
- Getting started with key skills
- Programme planning
- Building literacy and numeracy into the curriculum
- Making changes to assessment

# Some starting points for planning

- What is your school ethos?
- What are the key characteristics of your school?
- What has self evaluation shown to be the strengths of your school in relation to junior cycle and therefore elements you want to continue to provide for?
- What has self evaluation shown to be the challenges your school needs to address in junior cycle?
- What lessons can be learned from the research findings related to the Junior Cycle?

# Some starting points continued

- Have you a full inventory of staff qualifications/interests and talents?
- Have you thought about different ways of configuring the school day/week to accommodate a different approach to timetabling?
- Are there ways that you can deploy staff to allow for team teaching, thematic learning, embedding literacy and numeracy or for teaching key skills?



# Practical first steps

- Establish a small team or number of teams to begin working on aspects of a new junior cycle
- Begin by asking
  1. What are we going to do?
  2. Who is going to do it?
  3. How will we do it (What are the steps and targets?)
  4. Where can we get help/support?

Materials to help you in different areas of work are being uploaded on the website [www.ncca.ie](http://www.ncca.ie) (Junior Cycle)

Thank you.