



# Desmond College Policy

*School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students*  
2020



**etbi**  
Education and Training  
Boards Ireland  
Boord Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Éireann



## Desmond College

### School Based Assessment Policy for Junior Cycle Students 2020

#### BACKGROUND

Further to the Minister for Education & Skills, Mr Joe McHugh TD's announcement on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and subsequently on 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Desmond 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* 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 29<sup>th</sup>.



## ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS

Desmond College assessment procedure for Junior Cycle students 2020 provide for the inclusion of the following components

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

Desmond College Junior Cycle School Report 2020	
<b>Recognition of Prior Learning Component</b>	<b>May 2020 Assessment</b>
<i>Total Weighting: 85%</i>	<i>Total Weighting: 15%</i>
<b>Recognition of Prior Learning Component:</b>	
<i>Total Weighting</i>	85% Grade /Descriptor ( 75% + 10%)
<i>Elements of Prior Learning Recognised</i>	Summer 2018 <b>AND</b> Summer 2019 <b>AND</b> Pre Junior Certificate 2020 <b>OR</b> Christmas 2018 <b>AND</b> Any piece of work already corrected by teacher (this can be the Assessment Task) – <b>10%</b>
<b>May 2020 Component:</b>	
<i>Total Weighting</i>	15% Grade/ Descriptor
<i>Elements of Prior Learning Recognised</i>	School designed examination/assessment Task Project Assignment Essay style question Presentation Google Form/docs Other task chosen by Subject Department

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.

All components to be completed and marked by May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. A May Assessment Report will issue on vsware, the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and a Junior Cycle Report will issue by post on 30<sup>th</sup> 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 Mark/Grade/Descriptor will be awarded for:

- Learning from Summer Examination 2018 – March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

This decision was informed by the DES Guidelines (issued April 29<sup>th</sup>, 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**

Desmond College will issue a May assessment activity, on Google Classroom or by post or by phone. These tasks are to be completed the week of 18<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> May.

Student will be advised of the format and duration of each subject assessment by their subject teacher.



## Policy Communication to Parents

### Junior Cycle Assessment Policy 2020

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#### 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>. An May assessment report will issue 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and a Junior Cycle Report will issue 30<sup>th</sup> 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 area(s)

Junior Cycle School Report 2020	
Recognition of Prior Learning Component for the period of Summer 2018-12 <sup>th</sup> 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"> <li>• Evidence available from assignments, tests, tasks journals, assessments, examinations, 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 will 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>
<p><i>Total Weighting: 85%</i></p>	<p><i>Total May 2020 Assessment Weighting: 15%</i></p>

- 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:** *Ms. Yourneen Gavin-Barry*

**Chair (BOM):**



### **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



## 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,**