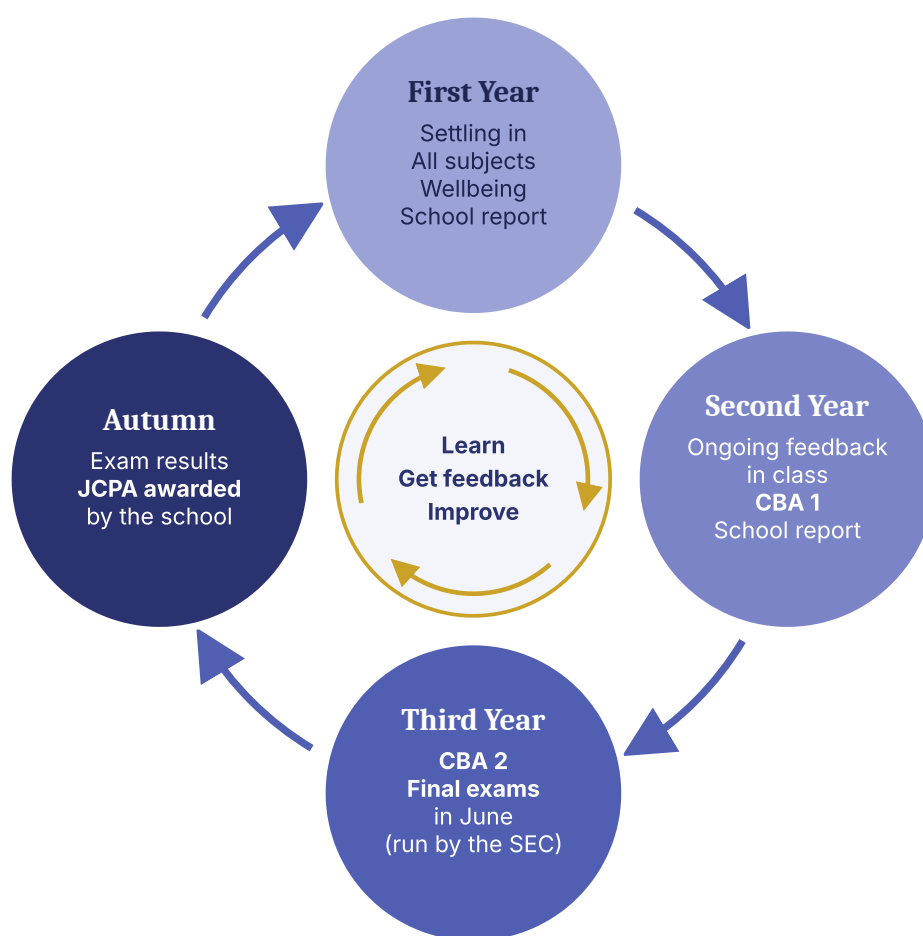


The Junior Cycle Learning Journey

Junior Cycle replaced the Junior Certificate. Rather than preparing mainly for one set of exams at the end of Third Year, students learn through active, hands-on classwork, build key skills such as communicating, managing information and working with others, and receive regular feedback on their progress.

The diagram shows your child's journey through the three years. At the centre is the cycle that runs through every class: students learn, get feedback from their teachers, and use it to improve.



CBA = Classroom-Based Assessment, completed in class with the subject teacher. SEC = State Examinations Commission. JCPA = Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. See page 2 for the CBA arrangements that apply to each year group at present.

How Junior Cycle Is Different

Junior Certificate (before)

- Syllabuses listing content to cover
- Assessed almost entirely by final exams
- Higher and Ordinary level in most subjects
- Letter grades (A to NG)

Junior Cycle (now)

- Specifications based on learning outcomes and key skills
- Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) plus final exams
- Higher and Ordinary level only in English, Irish and Maths
- Wellbeing (PE, SPHE, CSPE) as a core part of learning
- Results reported on the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)

Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)

CBAs are completed in class with the subject teacher during Second and Third Year and are reported on the JCPA. Under the Framework for Junior Cycle, students complete two CBAs per subject. Since the pandemic, the Department of Education and Youth has temporarily reduced this:

- **Current Second and Third Years** complete at least one CBA per subject, and there is no Assessment Task.
- **Current First Years** are expected to complete two CBAs per subject, one in Second Year and one in Third Year.

These arrangements may change following the NCCA's current review of CBAs. Your child's subject teachers will confirm the CBAs and dates for each subject.

Find out more

NCCA: ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle

Curriculum Online: curriculumonline.ie

Department of Education and Youth: gov.ie/education