



Innovation & Identity

Schools developing Junior Cycle



October 2011

Junior Cycle Development...so far

- ESRI research - evidence base for junior cycle review
- Request for advice from Minister and DES
- *Innovation and Identity* discussion paper
- Consultation findings on www.ncca.ie
- Proposals for a new *Framework for Junior Cycle*

Rationale for junior cycle development

Minister's request and input to Council

- Create the space for deeper learning and innovation in schools
- Continuity with primary education
- The role of key skills in junior cycle
- The forms of assessment for junior cycle and the scaling back of the Junior Certificate

ESRI research on the experience of junior cycle

Build on previous review and look to the future

A Framework for Junior Cycle

Learning

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

Potential statements of learning

- 1. improves their observation, inquiry and critical-thinking skills**
- 2. recognizes the potential uses of mathematical knowledge, skills, and understanding in all areas of learning**
- 3. values local and national heritage and recognises the relevance of the past to current national and international issues and events**

Key Skills



Examples of key skills outcomes

Working with others

Relating effectively and resolving conflict

Co-operating

Respecting difference

Contributing

Learning with others

Using ICT to work with others

Managing information and thinking

Being curious

Gathering, recording, organising, and evaluating information

Using information to solve problems and create new ideas

Thinking creatively and critically

Reflecting on and evaluating my learning

Using ICT to access, manage and share knowledge

A Framework for Junior Cycle

Curriculum

- Subjects continue as the main curriculum components
- Schools enabled to offer short courses
- Subjects will be shorter

Curriculum

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

Subjects

Cultural studies
Sustainable living and resource management
Debating/public speaking
Write-a-book
Development education
Leadership
Book club
Making choices
Personal finance
School musical/drama performance
Coaching in the community
Being innovative-product design
Web design
Creating an e-portfolio
Chinese language and culture
Mathematics for living and work

Potential Short Courses

Level 2 Qualification

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

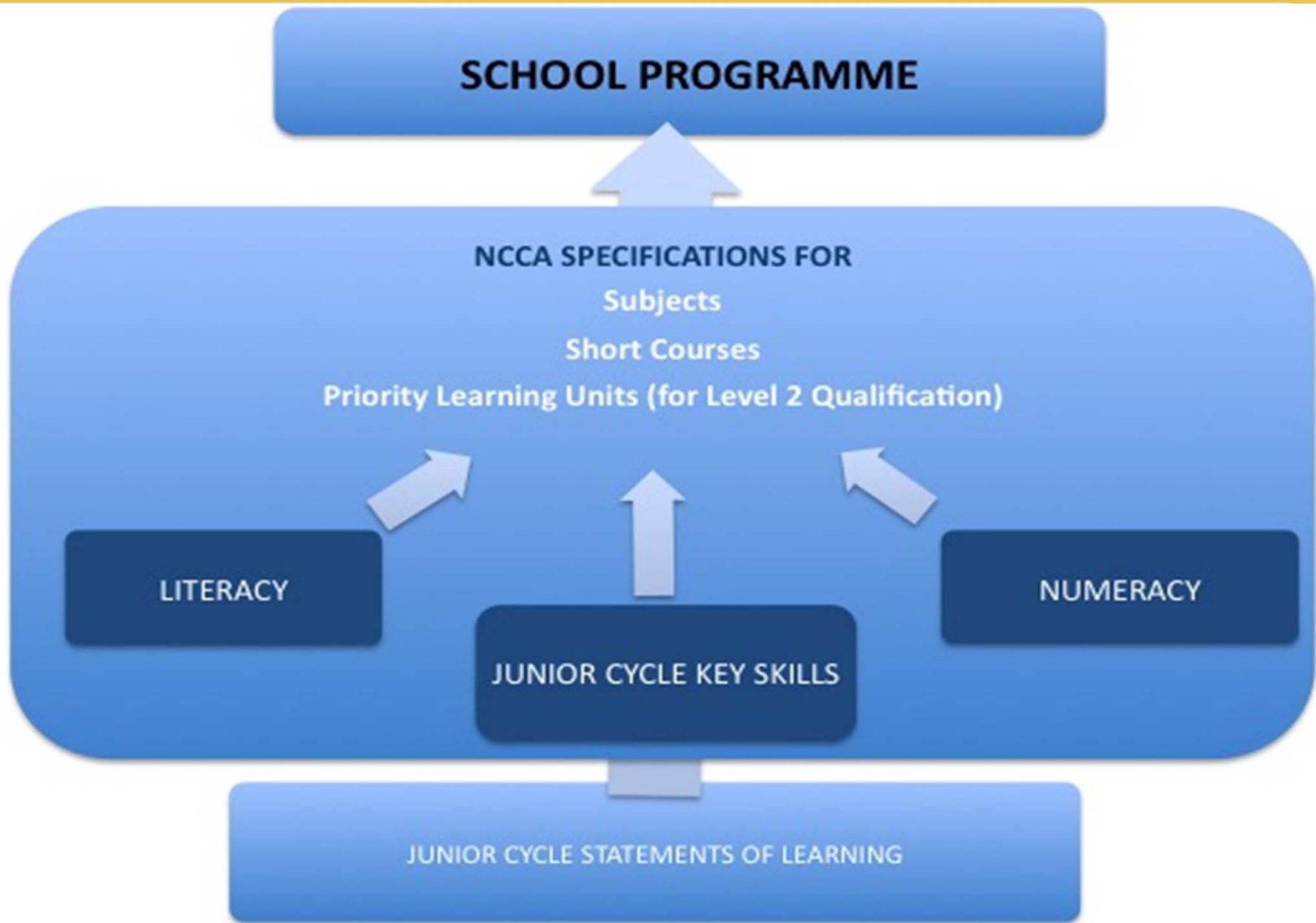
Priority Learning Units

Key skills

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

Skills

Literacy
Numeracy



A Framework for Junior Cycle

Assessment

- 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

Assessment for qualification

- Combination of external examination and school work (portfolio)
- School work assessed by the school, then externally moderated by SEC

A Framework for Junior Cycle

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

Leading and supporting junior cycle change

- All schools working to the same plan
- All schools move at the same time...but not necessarily at the same pace
- Phased introduction of change to an appropriate timeframe
- Developmental approach taken to working with teachers and schools – building capacity
- Identify the supports and resources needed