

Writing & Recording your Other Areas of Learning (OALs) for your Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)



Guide for Parents

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What is a JCPA?

Instead of receiving a certificate containing just her Junior Certificate results, your daughter will instead receive a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA).

This JCPA (Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement) will contain

1. The results of her JC State Exams.

Distinction, Higher Merit, Merit, Achieved, Partially Achieved, Not Graded

2. The descriptors for her completed Classroom Based Assessments

Exceptional, Above Expectations, In Line with Expectations, Yet to Meet Expectations

3. Information on 'Other Areas of Learning' your daughter has undertaken during 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year in school.



John Kelly

DOB: 21 June 2001



STATE CERTIFIED
FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Examination number: 456985

English (O)

Distinction

Irish (O) ⁽²⁾

A

Mathematics (H)

B

History (H)

C

Geography (H)

D

French (O) ⁽²⁾

C

Business Studies (H)

B

Science (H)

B

C.S.P.E. (C)

A

Classroom-Based Assessments - English

Oral Communication

Above expectations

Collection of Texts

In line with expectations

Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses

Coding

In line with expectations

Physical Education

Above expectations

Artistic Performance

Exceptional

Philosophy

In line with expectations

Other Areas of Learning 

The school has flexibility to report on other learning experiences/events that the student has participated in outside the formal timetabled curriculum such as;

- Engagement with co-curricular or extra-curricular activities such as a science fair, school's sporting activities or debating.
- Specific learning opportunities that do not form part of subjects or short courses, i.e; leadership training; activities relating to guidance; membership of school clubs or societies; membership of school's student council.
- Engagements that form part of the formal timetabled curriculum but not reported on in other sections of the JCPA i.e; engagement with a school's own religious education programme or with elements of the PE, SPHE curriculum and CSPE.

Principal

Ms Mary Ryan

Year Head

MR Jack Quigley

Roll Number: 600900

Anytown Secondary School
Anytown, Co. Anytown
V94HXW5



Anytown Secondary School

This JCPA recognises and records achievements in Junior Cycle.

What is an 'Other Area of Learning'?

The most important thing to remember is that an OAL is school related, so it happened here in the school or while your daughter was representing the school or attending an event as part of the school community. The DoES states the following in its Circular Letter

“OALs records student achievement, involvement and participation across a broad range of areas of learning through in-school activities in junior cycle. Activities participated in outside of school are not allowed to be considered in the JCPA”

Examples of suitable achievements for inclusion as an OAL

- Specific awards your daughter has won for sporting or cultural achievements in first, second and third year.
- Membership of School Sporting Teams (e.g. Football, Camogie, Basketball, Athletics, Soccer, Equestrian, Tennis, Class Leagues)
- Member of other (non-sporting) extra-curricular activity. (e.g. Student Council, School Library Committee, School Choir, Debating Team, Quiz Team etc.)
- Taking part in the organisation of a charity fundraising event in the school (e.g. Shoe Box Appeal, Jumper Day, Cake Sale for Lourdes)
- Performing in front of classmates/schoolmates at a school musical, dramatic or dance performance (e.g. Talent Contest, Choral Festival, Quizzes, Seachtain na Gaeilge,)
- Taking part in organising or being involved in a school event (e.g. School Mass, Carol Service, Open Night, school information sessions, presentations to Board of Management).
- Participated in school's Religious Education programme
- Participated in school's Wellbeing programme: PE, SPHE, CSPE (from 2018 in 1st year)
- School leadership role (e.g. Meitheal Group, Class Prefect or Other)
- Subject Programmes including Sports Day, Reflective Days, Educational Trips
- Any learning experience you feel has benefitted your daughter during time at St. Mary's High School e.g. friendship workshops
- Assisted at parent-teacher meetings or similar.
- Initiatives undertaken in class such as a religion/history/science project, winning a cake decoration prize, completing a winning design in art, making models in science,
- Being a part of any school club.
- An active role in your CSPE project

Identifying OALs for the JCPA

Your daughter should aim to identify a minimum of three and a maximum of five OALs. The OAL should be written in the third person e.g.

1. Aislinn was a member of the school camogie team where she represented the school at competition level reaching the semi-finals of the All Ireland
2. Aislinn was a member of the school's positive mental health committee
3. Aislinn won a class prize in the first year for her Science project

You should discuss these Other Areas of Learning (OALs) with your daughter & rank them in order of importance for her.

Junior Cycle – Key Skills and Statements of Learning

MANAGING MYSELF

This key skill helps learners to understand themselves both as individuals and as learners so that they can develop personal goals and plans. It also helps them develop strategies to make considered decisions, to take action and to reflect on their progress.

STAYING WELL

This key skill recognises that learners' overall wellbeing must be supported alongside their intellectual development. Being healthy, physically and emotionally, being socially active and being able to take care of oneself and of others helps learners become happy and confident. This key skill also helps young people become positive and engaged in their

COMMUNICATING

This skill helps learners develop good communication skills in all aspects of life, using a variety of media. As well as developing literacy skills it also develops learners' confidence in communicating, expressing opinions, writing, making oral presentations and performing.

BEING CREATIVE

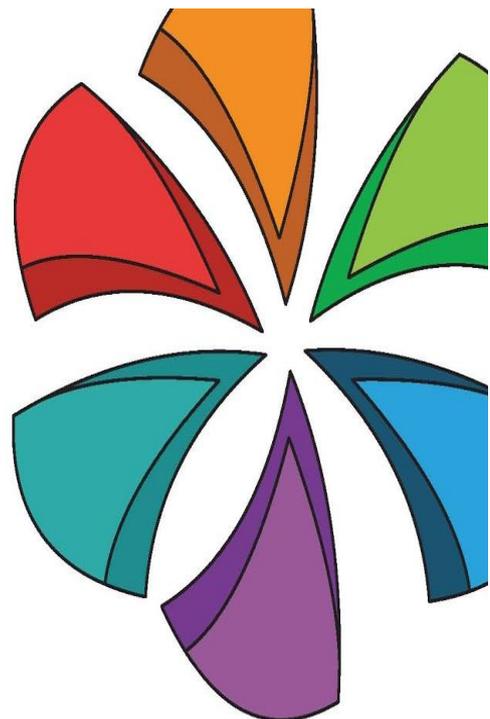
This skill enables learners to develop their imagination and creativity as they explore different ways of doing things and of thinking. Students learn to stay with challenges or tasks to completion and to learn from their experiences.

WORKING WITH OTHERS

This skill helps learners develop good relationships and to appreciate the value of cooperating to reach both collective and personal goals. Students also learn to value

MANAGING INFORMATION AND THINKING

This key skill helps learners gradually improve their capacity to search for information from different sources. They also develop their skills in judging and discriminating between information types and sources and they develop strategies for organising information so that they can understand it and use it later. This skill also develops learners' thinking skills so that they can become more skilled in higher order reasoning and problem-solving.



Statements of Learning

The student

- 1 communicates effectively using a variety of means in a range of contexts in L1*
- 2 listens, speaks, reads and writes in L2* and one other language at a level of proficiency that is appropriate to her or his ability
- 3 creates, appreciates and critically interprets a wide range of texts
- 4 creates and presents artistic works and appreciates the process and skills involved
- 5 has an awareness of personal values and an understanding of the process of moral decision making
- 6 appreciates and respects how diverse values, beliefs and traditions have contributed to the communities and culture in which she/he lives
- 7 values what it means to be an active citizen, with rights and responsibilities in local and wider contexts
- 8 values local, national and international heritage, understands the importance of the relationship between past and current events and the forces that drive change
- 9 understands the origins and impacts of social, economic, and environmental aspects of the world around her/him
- 10 has the awareness, knowledge, skills, values and motivation to live sustainably
- 11 takes action to safeguard and promote her/his wellbeing and that of others
- 12 is a confident and competent participant in physical activity and is motivated to be physically active
- 13 understands the importance of food and diet in making healthy lifestyle choices
- 14 makes informed financial decisions and develops good consumer skills
- 15 recognises the potential uses of mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding in all areas of learning
- 16 describes, illustrates, interprets, predicts and explains patterns and relationships
- 17 devises and evaluates strategies for investigating and solving problems using mathematical knowledge, reasoning and skills
- 18 observes and evaluates empirical events and processes and draws valid deductions and conclusions
- 19 values the role and contribution of science and technology to society, and their personal, social and global importance
- 20 uses appropriate technologies in meeting a design challenge
- 21 applies practical skills as she/he develop models and products using a variety of materials and technologies
- 22 takes initiative, is innovative and develops entrepreneurial skills
- 23 brings an idea from conception to realisation
- 24 uses technology and digital media tools to learn, communicate, work and think collaboratively and creatively in a responsible and ethical manner

*L1 is the language medium of the school (Irish in Irish-medium schools). L2 is the second language (English in Irish-medium schools).

Reflecting on the OALs

Next you should help your daughter to reflect on skills she learned while completing the OALs she has selected.

Use the Key skills and Statements of Learning on the previous pages to help her to reflect on the skills she learned.

You should then help her to re-write her OALs to emphasise the skill she has acquired.

Skills are in blue below

- Aislinn was a member of the school futsal team where she represented the school at competition level reaching Munster final. This experience helped her develop her ability to work in a team and how to set and achieve personal targets.
- Aislinn was a member of the school's student council. This helped her understand how meetings are run and how to organise charity fundraisers. Furthermore this developed her problem solving skills and her ability to innovate.
- Aislinn won a class prize in the first year for her home economics project. This project taught her the skills of research and how to think creatively. It also taught her to bring an idea from concept to realisation.
- Aislinn took part in a school choir performance and learned to work with others, express herself and build her communication skills.
- Aislinn entered a project in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition and developed her investigative, research and problem-solving skills.
- Aislinn was a member of the Basketball team where she committed to team training and competitions and developed her tactical competencies and skills.
- Aislinn worked effectively with others in a group action project for CSPE to raise awareness of the homeless crisis and to promote the work of Cork Simon and the Penny Dinners
- Aislinn was a member of the Student Council, where she worked with others and communicated effectively in representing the voice of her class.

Important Points to Remember

- Your daughter will need to decide with your help on the 3-5 OALs she wants included in your JCPA.
- The OALs should focus on learning achieved (skills and knowledge) rather than on activities so the OAL needs to be linked with a Key Skill
- The OALs should be written in the 3rd person. It should use the words 'she' and 'her' rather than 'I' or 'my'
- The typed OALs should be within the 750 character limit.

How to submit OALs?

Towards the end of 3rd Year, your daughter will enter her OALS into a Microsoft Form. This should be done at home but may if necessary be done in an ICT Room with the help of her teacher.

Your daughter will receive an email to her school email address which will have the link to her Microsoft Form relating to her OALs.

The following are the steps for your daughter to follow in order to access the OAL form

- Log into a computer and click on/ google Microsoft 365
- Open your Microsoft 365 School email account
- Open the email you have received called: 'OAL write-up' When you click on the link; Other Areas of Learning for the JCPA, you will see this form.

Your daughter should fill in the form using her OAL diary & click submit at the end!

Remember it's a minimum of 3 OALs and a maximum of 5.

If you don't press submit it won't save.

Privacy Notice - Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement Award

For the information of parents/guardians of students who will receive a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) award in 2017

Introduction

It is required by data protection law that before schools commence processing of any personal data a school must first bring a privacy notice on how the student's personal data will be processed to the attention of parents/guardians. This privacy notice relates to those students who have undertaken Junior Cycle at Level 3 of the National Qualifications Framework i.e. those students who have undertaken Junior Cycle State Examinations.

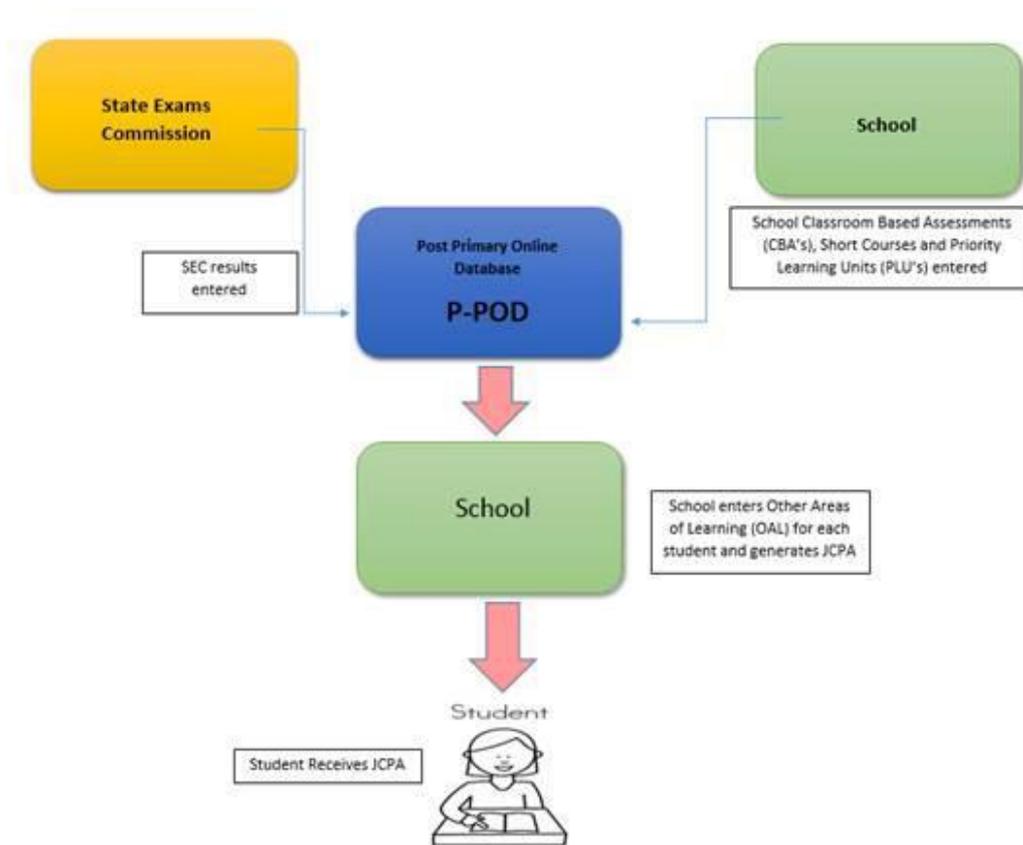
Process

One of the functions of the Department of Education and Skills is to provide support services to recognised schools. In recent years the Department has developed the Post-Primary Online Database (PPOD) to assist schools in recording and processing details of students enrolled in post-primary schools.

This document sets out the information in relation to how students' personal data held on the Department's Post-Primary Online Database (PPOD1) will be used to produce the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA will replace the Junior Certificate award from 2017. The JCPA will be awarded by the school to the student for the first time in late 2017. This notice relates to those students who sat Junior Cycle State Examinations (National Framework of Qualifications Level 3) in June 2017.

Please see separate Privacy Notice on general use of P-POD at <https://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Services>Returns/Post-Primary-Online-Database-P-POD-Project/Data-Protection.html>

The diagram on the next page shows how the student data will be shared in order to produce a JCPA for every student.



Schools will be enabled to record additional student data, see Appendix A, on P-POD for the purpose of producing a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) for each of their students who completes the Junior Cycle.

This approach enables

- a. schools to record on PPOD, in advance of the Junior Cycle/Certificate State examination, the subjects, short courses and Priority Learning Units (PLUs) that a student is undertaking
- b. the State Examinations Commission (SEC) will provide state examinations final results electronically to the Department of Education and Skills for upload to PPOD and association of these results with each student.
- c. Department of Education and Skills to provide the JCPAs electronically to schools for each student.
- d. schools to complete the 'other areas of learning' section of the JCPA for each student and deliver the award to students. The 'other areas of learning' section of the JCPA allows the school to report on other learning experiences and events that the student has participated in outside the formal timetabled curriculum. The data entered at school level for 'other areas of learning' will not be stored on the Department's database.
- e. following production of the JCPA for each student the school will retain a copy of the full JCPA for each student.

Once JCPAs are produced the data will be anonymised by the Department of Education & Skills and used in statistical analysis. No identifiable individual data is used by the Department and only a small number of staff within the Department of Education & Skills has access to the personal data and then solely to provide technical support to your school when it is using PPOD.

Student data as set out in Appendix A will not be shared with anyone else other than another post-primary school in which the student enrolls.

Pursuant to Section 3 and Section 4 of the Data Protection Acts, you may access your personal data and request a copy of your data held on PPOD by contacting your school, or if you are a former student by contacting the Department of Education & Skills

Under data protection law you may object to the processing of your data or seek to have the data corrected

More detail on use of personal data by the Department is contained in the FAQ on P-POD available on <https://www.education.ie/en/The-Department/Data-Protection/FAQ.html>

The Department of Education & Skills Data Controller for PPOD is the Principal Officer in the Parents, Learners and Database Section within the Department who can be contacted by e-mailing p-podhelpdesk@education.gov.ie

The Data Protection Officer for the Department may be contacted by e-mailing gdpr@education.gov.ie

Appendix A

List of post-primary student personal data² recorded by post-primary schools on PPOD for the purpose of producing the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The purpose for which each item is collected is explained in the FAQ for P-POD which is available on www.education.ie

Details on retention periods, legal basis for collection by the Department and the school are contained in the Fair Processing Notice for P-POD

Classroom-Based Assessments are part of the new specifications for English, Business Studies and Science.

This type of data was stored on PPOD for the first time in 2016/17

For each subject where an examination held by the State Examinations Commission was taken

- Level taken in the final examination
- Outcome of Classroom-Based Assessments 1 and 23
- Predicted medium through which final examination taken Irish/English
- Overall grade awarded by State Examinations Commission
- Annotation of result to indicate a subject was assessed except for a particular element e.g. aural is missing

For each short course taken up to a maximum of 4 short courses per student

- Code
- Title
- Level of Learning Programme - 2 or 3
- Medium Irish/English
- Outcome of Classroom- Based Assessment

In addition the following data provide by the State Examinations Commission will be printed on your JCPA

- Forename and Surname – as provided to the State Examination Commission
- Date of Birth – to aid identification whether there are more than two students with the same name
- State examination candidate number – to assist with any follow up query with State Examinations

Information on other personal data stored outside of PPOD and used by your school in producing your JCPA is available in your school's Data Protection Policy a copy of which may be obtained from your school.

Information on the all other personal data of students collected and processed by schools using PPOD is available in the Fair Processing Note for P-POD copies of which are available at www.education.ie