

Junior Cycle Planning - Initial questions to stimulate discussion

What has school 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 school self-evaluation shown to be areas of improvement that your school needs to address in junior cycle?

What are the key characteristics of your school in general?
(Some may be sensitive factors that must be kept account of when planning for a new junior cycle. Your school mission and ethos will influence this answer also)

Have we asked the students what they need and what they think is important at this stage of their learning?

How can your new programme strengthen literacy and numeracy provision?

How will your new junior cycle be inclusive – e.g. Do you have learners with SEN whose needs might be better met by a Level 2 programme?

Could your 1st year programme be adapted to address issues of transition from Primary to Post-Primary?

How will your programme best provide for the health and well-being of learners?

How can you design a programme which will be relevant, challenging and enjoyable and encourage the greatest participation of learners?

How will you build in opportunities for learners to develop the skills of junior cycle?

How can the new JC be used as an opportunity to improve on formative assessment approaches in your school?

Have you a full inventory of staff qualifications/interests and talents?
(You may discover new talents and interests teachers would like to use in the new junior cycle)

Have you thought about how you might differently timetable staff to allow for teaching new areas of learning, team teaching, or thematic learning?