

# Principles of Junior Cycle

## Whole Staff Session

To become familiar with the eight Principles that underpin *the Framework for Junior Cycle*

To review the school's current junior cycle programme through the lens of the eight Principles

To identify the Principles which require particular focus in a new junior cycle programme within your school

### Resources

Copies of the JC Principles cut up into sections for each participant

PowerPoint slide – brief overview of the eight principles (optional).

### This session is designed

- to facilitate teachers in becoming more familiar with the Principles of Junior Cycle
- identify those Principles that are currently considered to be strong in the school's JC programme
- identify how the Principles of JC can inform the development of a new JC programme in the school.

It is important that each staff member has an opportunity to consider their own values and what they consider to be important in designing a new JC programme.

## Introduction

Optional - Short presentation on the eight principles of junior cycle.

### Task 1

Ask staff to work on their own to rank the principles, from most important to least important for themselves, as teachers. Discuss the outcome with a colleague.

### Task 2

Each pair joins up with another pair. Now the task of the group is to organise the principles in the shape of a pyramid with the principle the group considers to be most important in the school's *current* JC programme at the top and the next important underneath.

Discussion: Gather feedback from the groups to see if there is agreement on which of the principles are most important in the current JC programme. Then pose the question - In a developing a new junior cycle for our students, what principles will require particular attention and why? How would that happen? How would students in junior cycle benefit?

## **Conclusion**

Ask each group to share their most important finding/observation.

OR

Ask each group to RECORD their most important finding/observation and pass it on to the JC planning team.