



**Innovation
& Identity**
Schools developing Junior Cycle

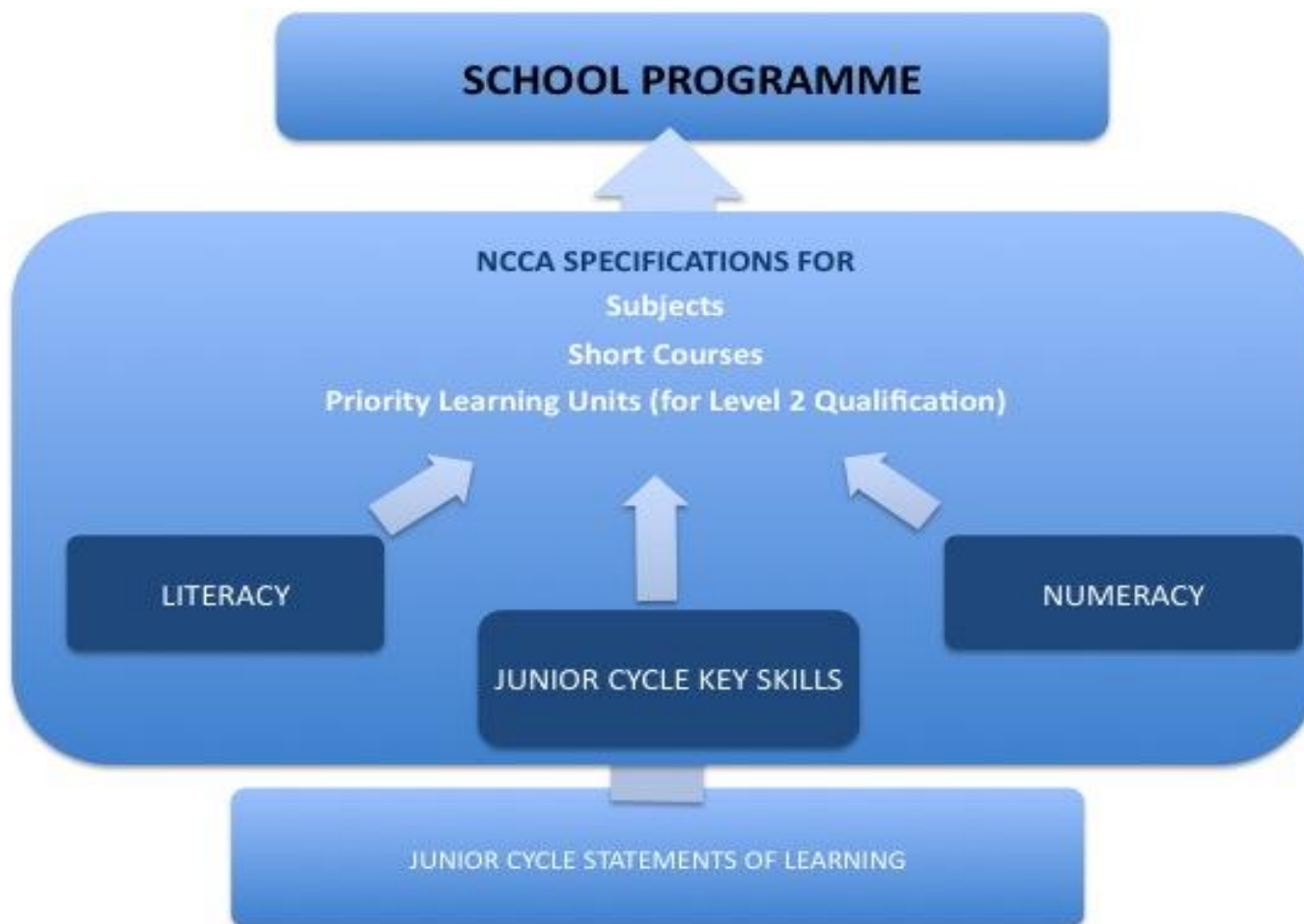


The Key Skills of Junior Cycle; Getting started

Our aims today

- To have a sense of the learning provided for by the Key Skills
- To identify approaches which will facilitate key skills development

Place of Key Skills in the new junior cycle



Key Skills



Why key skills?

- International experience
- Our own research and consultations
- Senior cycle key skills project
- Evidence from classrooms

Teacher's reflection, Athy Community School

'The key to unlocking the learning is key skills'



Learning outcomes I can



Being healthy, physical and active

make informed choices in relation to my food, personal care and life-style

demonstrate care and respect for myself and other people

use a range of coping strategies to deal with personal problems and stress

practice relaxation and mindfulness techniques

participate in regular physical exercise and recognise its benefits

Key skills – for everyone

- Subjects and short courses specifications
- Learning outcomes
- Teaching and Learning
- Assessment

What are the benefits of key skills?

- More learner centred
- Students motivated and engaged
- Positive classroom dynamics
- Improved relationships
- More effective learning



Teachers' comments

'More students now participate actively in class. Before, I heard the same few voices. Even those who never handed up homework are now reminding me to correct the homework!'



Looking at the key skills framework

1. One skill per group
2. Listen as your Reader reads your skill aloud
3. Think about learning activities that would help foster that skill in your subject(s)
5. Together, draw up a list
6. Choose 1 to share

You have 20 minutes

Looking at the key skills framework

Now number each group participant in groups e.g. 1-6. There must be an equal number of people with the number 1, an equal number with number 2 etc

Ask all number 1s to sit together; all number 2s etc

Participants must teach the people in their new group what they learned in the previous group

Key skills work best when



- Intentionally focused upon
- Both students and teachers are aware of skills to be developed
- There is an opportunity to reflect
- There is an openness to doing things differently

Evolution not revolution

- Start small
- Be patient
- Reflect
- Work collaboratively
- Involve students



Supporting key skills in school

- Buddy Meetings
- Plan for key skills
- Share resources
- Find a folder, shelf, cupboard or shared electronic folder!

