



# Coláiste Pobail Bheanntíraí

Seskin

Bantry,

Co. Cork.

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## Colaiste Pobail Bheanntíraí

### Assessment Policy

#### Mission Statement

'Ni neart go cur le cheile'

In partnership, through a comprehensive curriculum, we aim to provide quality teaching and learning in the pursuit excellence, to promote intellectual, spiritual and personal development in an atmosphere of respect thus enabling students to contribute positively to their community.

#### Policy

***Assessment is the process of identifying, gathering and interpreting information about students' learning. The central purpose of assessment is to provide information on student achievement and progress and set direction for ongoing teaching and learning.***

Our schools assessment policy is guided by various legislative requirements. Education Act 1998, Data Protection (Amendment) Act 2003, Equal Status Act 2000, The Education Welfare Act 2000, The Education for persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004, The freedom of information Acts 1997, 2003.

The Education Act redefines, radically, the responsibilities of principals and teachers in relation to the assessment of children. The Act states ...the principal and teachers shall-(b) regularly evaluate students and periodically report the results of the evaluation to the students and their parents/guardians.

Implications of this requirement for teachers and schools include

- Developing assessment procedures which provide an accurate account of students progress and achievement.
- Creating and maintaining individual records of progress and achievement while they are attending the school.
- Providing parents with assessment reports.

The Education Act also places a responsibility on schools to ensure that the educational needs of all students, including those with disability or other special educational needs are identified and provided for.



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The Data protection Act (Amendment) Act 2003. Any assessment information is subject to the Act , that parents have the right to regular information on the progress and achievement of their children.

Implications of the Act requires schools to state in their assessment policy

What information is being gathered, why it is being gathered, how it will be gathered ,how it will be stored ,where will it be stored and for how long.

Equal Status Act 2000 has implications for the assessment policy in that it promotes equality and prohibits certain kind of discrimination, eg the form of assessment used to gather information on the students must not in any way discriminate against them.

Freedom of information (Amendment) Act 2003, ensures that parents /guardians of a student or in the case of a student who has reached 18 years of age,that there is access to records kept by the school relating to the progress of the student in his or her education.

## **The Aims and Objectives of Assessment in Coláiste Pobail Bheanntíraí**

- Monitor student progress
- Provide students and parents/guardians with information regarding progress
- Identify students for certain levels in their subjects
- Foster motivation
- Develop a capacity for self assessment
- Make decisions about what and how the student is learning
- Help learners to know how to improve
- Promote understanding of goals and criteria
- Enable teachers to monitor their own approaches and methodologies
- Use data to help students know how to improve, Assist teacher planning
- Assess eligibility for additional support and services
- Establish baseline data in relation to student attainments in certain subjects
- Co-ordinate assessment on a whole school basis
- Focus on how students learn
- Employ modern technology.
- Appropriate and relevant information held by the school including formulating a reference for a student for a third party provided that the student indicates to the third party that the school can be contacted



# Coláiste Pobail Bheanntraí

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## Methods of Assessment, formal

Written examination, Practical examination, Prepared Practical work , Prepared brief/written report/experimental report ,Oral examination , Aural examination.

## Methods of Assessment, informal

Written test, Project work, Practical work ,Oral work, Aural work ,Other- Group work, Art, Visual assessment ,Homework ,Class work ,Oral questions in class

## Criteria that teachers refer to during Evaluation/parent-teacher meeting.

Results ,Behaviour ,Homework ,Effort ,Ability ,Progress ,Participation ,Attitude ,Improvement ,Attendance , Level in subject ,Work ethic ,Class work ,Punctuality.

The form that formal and informal assessment take are dependent on the subject area being assessed and will vary from subject to subject. All forms of assessment will strive to meet the additional needs of the student in the classroom when they arise. Varied classroom strategies may be used from time to time such as differentiated assessment, visual aids, spelling waivers, increased time and use of dictionaries, as determined by the individual teacher. Students are expected to treat all forms of assessment with respect and are expected to participate fully.

When feasible, and as determined by each subject department, a common assessment across a year group will be used.

## Formal Assessments.

There are common year group exams at Christmas and Summer for students. Students have exams in most subjects.

The Junior Cert and Leaving Cert students have Christmas exams and pre-exams February of their exam year.

All Junior Cert and Leaving Cert students do the State Junior and leaving Cert Exams in June.



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**1<sup>st</sup> Years** : In September this group sit **GRT II** (group reading test ).

This highlights if students need learning support not already identified by Parents/Primary School.

All teachers get a copy.

The SEN Department and the Principal get a copy.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Years**: In May normally, this group sits the **WRAT IIII** (Word Reading Ability Test, Spelling Section)

This is used as a guide for potential applications for RACE i.e. Junior Cert.

English teachers would get a copy.

**5<sup>th</sup> Years** : In May all 5<sup>th</sup> years sit **DATS** tests (Differential Aptitude Test ).

The SEN Department use spelling /reading section for Leaving Certificate Applicants for **RACE**.

The Guidance Department use DATS for career support

**WRAT IIII** /spelling and reading test. This is given to students applying for **RACE** and would be used by the SEN Department.

**EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT** of students is conducted by **NEPS** (National Educational Psychological Services).

## Reporting of Assessments

**Verbal or written comment to the student** : when returning a corrected assessment or assessing homework a teacher may choose to give a verbal or written comment to appraise the work.

**Student Journal** : A teacher may choose to communicate via a note in the student's journal.

**Signature on Assessment** :an assessment may be sent home to be viewed and signed by the parent/guardian.

**Direct Contact** : a teacher may decide to directly contact a parent/guardian regarding an outcome of an assessment.



# Coláiste Pobail Bheanntaí

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**Parent –teacher Meeting** : Parent –teacher meetings are held for all year groups. The teacher can communicate outcomes of both formal and informal assessment to generate an accurate picture of the student’s progress.

**Progress Report** : when deemed necessary, at the request of the teacher or by a parent/guardian a hand written report can be collected from a student’s class teachers by the Class tutor or the Year head. This can be either posted or communicated verbally to the parent/guardian.

**Formal Written Reports** : Formal written reports are posted to the parents/guardians of every student bi-annually . 1<sup>st</sup> ,2<sup>nd</sup> , 3<sup>rd</sup> (Junior certs) ,transition years ,5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (Leaving certs) years receive a report following the Christmas assessments . Junior Cert and leaving Certs receive a report following their Pre-Junior and Pre-Leaving Cert Exams. The 1<sup>st</sup> ,2<sup>nd</sup> , TY,5<sup>th</sup> years receive a report following their Summer Exams.

The Junior Cert state exam results are issued in September and Leaving Cert state exam results are issued in August following the exams.

The School Results are recorded using an e portal system .The report template is computerised and allows teachers to distinguish levels. A mark and grade are awarded and a comment can be generated from a menu or an original comment can be typed in.

All of the formal written reports are signed off by the Principal and posted to the Parents/Guardians.

A copy of each student’s written report is also kept in their individual student file.

“Appropriate and relevant information held by the school including formulating a reference for a student for a third party provided that the student indicates to the third party that the school can be contacted”.