



Notice for teachers of English, Science and Business Studies.

Junior Cycle:

The dispute between ASTI and the Department of Education and Skills regarding Junior Cycle reform continues. Members will be aware that ASTI representatives met the Minister for Education and Skills together with his officials during the summer with a view to finding a resolution. In that context, ASTI remains committed to finding a resolution that addresses all outstanding issues. It is particularly acknowledged that teachers of English have borne an enormous burden in recent years in the fight to protect standards, equity and fairness for students. For this reason, they are owed a debt of gratitude from fellow ASTI members, parents and students. Please find enclosed notice to be brought to the attention of ASTI members teaching Junior Cycle English, science and business studies.

The Junior Cycle Framework Directive issued by ASTI remains in force. The implications for teachers of English and for business studies and science, in which new specifications are now being introduced, are set out here for your convenience.

The appropriate specifications for these subjects are set out at www.curriculumonline.ie

These are the content specifications that teachers should be teaching and implementing in their classrooms. There are no other valid specifications in these subjects in existence at this time. Teachers are required by Department Circular to teach their classes in accordance with the relevant new Junior Cycle Specifications (syllabus). The ASTI directive does not prohibit this.

Our current directive relating to the Junior Cycle directs members as follows:

1. Not to attend CPD organised in connection with the Junior Cycle Framework Proposals.
2. Not to attend meetings associated with the Junior Cycle Framework Proposals.
3. Not to attend any planning meeting or participate in any planning activities organised in connection with the Junior Cycle Framework Proposals.
4. Not to engage in any aspect of school based assessment for the purpose of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)
5. Not to engage in any development of or delivery of Junior Cycle Framework Short Courses.
6. Not to engage in any event or function related to points 1 to 5 above.

The effect of this directive is that members are prohibited from engaging in any event or function related to the planning of or preparation for the introduction of the Junior Cycle Framework.

Moreover, in a ballot of members held in September 2015, ASTI rejected the terms of resolution offered in the *Joint Statement on Principles and Implementation* and the *Appendix to the Joint Statement (Professional Time to Support Implementation)*. Accordingly, ASTI teachers should be aware that the provisions relating to Classroom Based Assessments and Assessment Tasks set out therein are comprehended by the directive. ASTI members are prohibited from engaging in these activities.

Further information on this and other ASTI campaigns can be accessed at asti.ie