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Education and Training
Boards Ireland

*Boird Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Éireann*

Explaining the Alignment Process

Staff meeting

4 School Based Steps to the Alignment Process

- Teacher % estimation
- School alignment through Subject Alignment Group meeting
- Oversight of the alignment process by the school principal
- Transmission of the marks to SEC for standardisation



Meeting Teaching Staff to Focus on the Alignment Process

- Recognising achievements over two years of the Senior Cycle (written/practical/oral/coursework/tasks)
- Student learning during school building closure in 2021 should be taken into account
- Student learning during school building closure in 2020 (with caveats): the teachers knows the learning context for the student in this instance/learning environment
- Learning outcomes : March –May 14th.
- Formative and Summative feedback informs the alignment process



Meeting with Staff : In Arriving at an Estimated Mark for the Student ...

- Estimation of % mark
- % a student is likely to have achieved in written LC Examination
- % mark for students likely performance in coursework , where applicable
- Formally record your consideration for each component (p12)
- No two students can be on same % .
- Percentage mark can be up to two decimals (78.33%, 78.34%. 78.35%.....)
- Be cognisant of the appropriate % weightings for the various components (note new % weightings just published)
- An 'on balance' judgement should be arrived at (an occasional dip in student performance is not necessarily indicative of overall performance)



What Does Each Teacher Need to Focus on?

- Focus on existing records and evidence that I have for each student?
- Focus on student performance in projects, assignments, practical work, and on key assignments and practical work for LCA students
- Focus on student performance of tasks, class assessments, questions, house or term exams: over the course of study for the subject
- Focus on evidence of learning for Jan/Feb 2021 should be used (be cognisant of student context)
- Exercise great care when considering evidence of remote learning from 2020
- Focus on performance in any coursework component, even if not fully completed
- Any other relevant information re student performance ?



Student Performance over two Years: Evidence of.....

Key Information to Consider: Summative and Qualitative Feedback

End of Term Reports for 5th. Year and 6th. Year

In-class assessments

End of topic assessments

Continuous assessments

Aural and Oral assessments

Presentations

Project work/coursework



Purpose of Alignment of Marks?

- Ideally a face to face meeting*: Week beginning 31/5/21:
- To ensure that.....
 1. The process of estimating percentage marks within a class is correctly and consistently applied by each teacher
 2. The teachers have applied consistent standards when estimating marks; this may result in some variations in patterns of attainment across different classes taking the same subject within the school
- * *Very high risk teacher will attend remotely*



The Subject Alignment Group: Prompt Qs. to Generate Discussion

These are not obligatory, but they may be helpful to the group

1. Are we clear about our purpose here (key principles of fairness, uniformity of standards across classes of same subject)?
2. Are we all certain that we have adjusted the coursework/non coursework weightings as per SEC Subject Guidelines from last August and from March 23rd.? (Do we need to check these guidelines now to ensure we are correct in our % weighting of coursework/non coursework?)
3. Can we agree on the basis for the range of marks that we have at higher level: what did we look for?
4. Can we agree on the basis for the range of marks that we have ordinary level : what did we look for?
5. Do we want to look now at how we considered coursework/non coursework as part of the overall estimated marks?
6. Are our % estimates for each class cohort/student similar/dissimilar, based on the ability levels of the various classes/students
7. Have the principles of fairness and uniformity standards across different classes been upheld?
8. Do we need to make any adjustments in our % estimates, now that we have had a discussion and heard of % estimates from other teachers?



After the Subject Alignment Group Meeting: Step 1-3

1. Each teacher reviews his/her class group data set (i.e. estimated percentage marks)
 2. Each teacher adjusts if necessary, and finalises a completed estimated mark form for each student in the class group*.
 3. These individual student forms are then submitted to the school principal through the subject alignment group as the product of the subject alignment process.
- *Only the class teacher can change the estimated mark for a student/students*

