

**An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna**  
**Department of Education and Skills**

**Follow-Through Inspection**

**REPORT**

<b>Ainm na scoile/ School name</b>	St. Joseph's N.S.
<b>Seoladh na scoile/ School address</b>	Ardan View Tullamore Co. Offaly
<b>Uimhir rolla / Roll number</b>	18797W

**Date of Evaluation: 09-05-2019**



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An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Scileanna  
Department of  
Education and Skills

## **FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION**

Follow-through inspections evaluate the progress a school has made on implementing main recommendations made in an earlier inspection rather than the overall educational provision that the school makes. Inspectors also advise the school on strategies and actions to enable them to fully address recommendations.

### **HOW TO READ THIS REPORT**

During this inspection, the inspector evaluated the progress the school has made in implementing recommendations made in an earlier inspection under the following headings:

1. Progress achieved to date
2. Findings
3. Recommendations

Inspectors describe the quality of the progress made in each of these areas using the Inspectorate's follow-through quality continuum which is shown on the final page of this report. The follow-through quality continuum explains the terms used by inspectors when evaluating the school's progress in implementing recommendations.

The board of management of the school was given an opportunity to comment in writing on the findings and recommendations of the report, and the response of the board will be found in the appendix of this report.

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

During the inspection visit, the following checks in relation to the school's child protection procedures were conducted:

1. The name of the DLP and the Child Safeguarding Statement are prominently displayed near the main entrance to the school.
2. The Child Safeguarding Statement has been ratified by the board and includes an annual review and a risk assessment.
3. All teachers visited reported that they have read the Child Safeguarding Statement and that they are aware of their responsibilities as mandated persons.

The school met the requirements in relation to each of the checks above.

## Follow-Through Inspection

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
<b>Type: WSE-Mod</b> <b>Date of Inspection: 07-12-2017</b> <b>Report Published? Yes</b>	<b>Date of Inspection: 09-05-2019</b>
Follow-through inspection activities	
<p>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Principal</li> <li>• Interview with a member of in-school management team</li> <li>• Review of school documentation and records and pupils' work</li> <li>• Observation of teaching and learning</li> <li>• Interaction with pupils</li> </ul>	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
<p>There is scope to ensure that open-ended and challenging questions are used more consistently across the school so as to maximise pupils' opportunities to express their opinions and articulate their learning collaboratively, and thereby extend their learning beyond the lesson.</p>	<p><b>Very good progress</b></p> <p>The school has made very good progress in addressing this recommendation. A collaborative review of approaches to questioning was undertaken by the school. Teachers identified opportunities across existing curricular and co-curricular areas where open-ended and challenging questions could be used beneficially in teaching and learning activities. Samples of prompt questions were devised by the teachers to support a cohesive and consistent approach to promoting pupils' critical thinking skills. In the lessons observed on the day of the follow-through evaluation, teachers modelled a wide range of questioning techniques which were appropriate to the diversity of learners in various classrooms. High levels of pupil engagement were noted, particularly when pupils discussed and problem-solved in collaborative learning activities. As the school continues to embed this approach, consideration should be given to enabling pupils to pose open-ended questions so as to extend their learning and further develop their critical thinking skills</p>
Summary of findings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opportunities to use open-ended and challenging questions across curricular and co-curricular learning activities have been identified by the teachers.</li> <li>• A cohesive and consistent approach to promoting pupils' critical thinking skills has been agreed across all settings.</li> <li>• In the lessons observed, teachers modelled a wide range of questioning techniques which were appropriate to the diversity of learners in various classrooms.</li> </ul>	

**Recommendations**

No further recommendations arise in relation to the recommendations in the original report.

<b>THE QUALITY CONTINUUM FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTIONS</b>
<i>Very good progress</i> indicates that appropriate action has been taken to address the recommendation, and that the action has fully achieved or will achieve the required outcome.
<i>Good progress</i> indicates that appropriate action has been taken to address the recommendation, and that substantial improvement has occurred, although further progress is necessary.
<i>Partial progress</i> indicates that some appropriate action has been taken to address the recommendation, and some improvement has occurred, but considerable further progress is necessary.
<i>No progress</i> indicates that no action has been taken, and that the original recommendation remains to be addressed.

# **Appendix**

**SCHOOL RESPONSE TO THE REPORT**

**Submitted by the Board of Management**

## **Area 1 Observations on the content of the inspection report**

The Board of Management, staff, pupils and parents of St. Joseph's N.S. welcome the very positive and affirming follow-through inspection report from the DES.

Our school community is committed to developing and embedding the school's identified priorities encapsulated in our motto "Every child, every chance, every day". A cohesive and consistent approach to promoting our pupils' critical thinking skills has been agreed across all settings and opportunities to use open-ended and challenging questions have been identified by teachers. We are pleased to note the high level of pupil engagement during problem-solving and collaborative learning activities across curricular and co-curricular areas.

## **Area 2 Follow-up actions planned or undertaken since the completion of the inspection activity to implement the findings and recommendations of the inspection.**

St. Joseph's N.S. is committed to continue to provide the best possible teaching and learning experiences in an inclusive and supportive environment for all the children in our care.