

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	The Adelaide & Meath Hospital
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Incorporating The National Children's Hospital Special School Tallaght
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	19207D

Date of Evaluation: 27-09-2018



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 did not meet the requirements in relation to 1 above and therefore was not fully compliant with the checks undertaken. However, the school has subsequently furnished evidence of compliance with these requirements.

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
Type: WSE-MLL	Date of Inspection: 27-09-2018
Date of Inspection: 22-03-2017	
Report Published? Yes	
Follow-through inspection activities	
The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Principal • Review of school documentation 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
The board should manage and lead the school in full accordance with the procedures outlined in the <i>Governance Manual for Primary schools 2015-2019</i> .	<p>Good progress</p> <p>The board has reviewed its practice and implemented procedures which are in line with the <i>Governance Manual for Primary schools 2015-2019</i>. Meetings are now held regularly and formal minutes are kept for the board meetings. A parent representative has been appointed to the board. Minutes from the board meetings indicate that procedures are in place for the auditing of school accounts and accounts for year ending 31 August 2017 were presented during the Follow Through evaluation.</p>
All administrative and curricular school plans and policies should be cyclically and systematically reviewed and ratified by the board.	<p>Good progress</p> <p>Since the time of the original WSE inspection report, good progress has been made in developing school plans and policies. A systematic plan for devising and ratifying administrative and curricular policies has been devised. The principal has taken very positive initial steps towards drafting school plans, policies and practices, and has identified clear priorities for the school's development of curricular plans. Whole school plans for English, Mathematics and Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) have been ratified by the board. The Drama, Music and Gaeilge plans are in draft form.</p>
Effective communication processes should be developed with parents and the wider community.	<p>Partial progress</p> <p>Partial progress has been made in addressing this recommendation. The school is working towards establishing stronger links with the hospital community through, for example, participation in forums such as the <i>Schwartz Round</i>. A school website is currently under construction. However, progress is not yet at a stage where effective communication systems have been established enabling parents and the wider community to easily access information about this hospital school.</p>
Summary of findings	
The board and principal have worked collaboratively and are focused on continuing to fully implement the recommendations arising out of the original WSE report of March 2017. Good progress has been achieved in two of the recommendations and partial progress has been made in one of the recommendations.	

- Good progress has been made on managing and leading the school. Regular board meetings are held, minutes are recorded, there is a parent representative on the board and arrangements are in place for the auditing of school accounts.
- Good progress has been achieved on drafting and ratifying administrative and curricular plans. A number of curricular policies continue to require drafting and ratification.
- Partial progress has been made on developing an effective communication processes with parents and the wider community. The school is developing stronger links with the hospital community and work on creating a school website has begun. However, information about school activities, policies and procedures are not easily accessible to families prior to, or during, their hospital stay.

Recommendations

- The board is advised to further guide the timely drafting, reviewing and ratification of all school policies and to include aspects of teaching and learning on the agenda for meetings.
- The board is advised to continue to work towards establishing effective communication processes whereby families and the wider school community can access information regarding the completed work and the future plans of this hospital school.

THE QUALITY CONTINUUM FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTIONS
<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 agree that the report is a fair and accurate reflection of the school's progress. The Board of Management acknowledges the 'good progress' made in relation to the management and leadership of the school in accordance with the procedures outlined in the Governance manual. The Board also acknowledges the 'good progress' that has been made in developing school plans and policies and are working off a carefully devised cyclical plan.

The Board also understands why only 'partial progress' has been made in relation to communication with the parents and the wider community since the initial inspection. We believe this outcome is fair and although we have taken small steps towards establishing stronger links (e.g. information leaflets in school packs and distributed around the hospital), we believe once the website has been completed, it will greatly improve the communication within the hospital, with the parents and with the wider community.

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

The Board have taken all further suggestions into account and are working towards resolving them. The Board have included aspects of teaching and learning on the agenda for each Board of Management meeting. This includes information on SSE, upcoming workshops, upcoming events in the hospital and the development and progress of school plans.

The Board have also discussed the cyclical plan for policies and are happy with the progress thus far. We will continue to review the plan and amend it if/when necessary.

The school website is under construction.

We hope to have it completed and live before the 22nd of December.

Once the website has been completed and is accessible, all hospital patients and staff, parents and the wider community will have access to information on upcoming workshops/activities.

Policies/procedures, school calendar and school information will be readily available on the website. A weekly updated blog will share insight into the themes, work and activities the children engage with.