

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	Oatlands College
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Mount Merrion Co Dublin
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	60050E

Date of Evaluation: 17-05-2017



Follow-Through Inspection

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
Type: Subject Inspection Date of Inspection: 13 March 2013 Report Published? Yes	Date of Inspection: 17-05-2017
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"> • Meeting with Principal • Interview with subject co-ordinator • Interview with relevant teachers • Review of students' work • Observation of teaching and learning • Interaction with students 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
All teachers should choose methodologies that support greater use of French as the language of instruction and communication.	Good progress Considerable improvement was noted in teacher's use of French as the language of instruction in all of the lessons observed. Teachers should now progress student use of the target language by creating opportunities in every lesson for prepared and spontaneous interactions in French.
An integrated approach to language skills development should be adopted in all lessons.	Good progress A more integrated approach to language skills development was observed in most lessons, particularly in relation to the teaching of grammar. Oral skills development was also more integrated into the body of most lessons. Further integration of oral and written skills development is recommended in some instances.
Assessment practices should include opportunities for students to develop their writing skills in an incremental manner.	Good progress An examination of student work indicated evidence of increased opportunities for students to develop their writing skills. To maximise this improved practice, greater use of formative feedback where students are informed of their strengths and areas for development is recommended.
Subject planning should be further progressed to include the sharing of good	Partial progress

practice and the further development of schemes of work in line with best practice	There was limited evidence of progress in subject department planning. Schemes of work have not been adequately progressed since the original inspection. However, there is a new subject co-ordinator for French and plans are in place for a renewed focus on subject planning.
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Summary of findings

Overall there was evidence of good progress in the teaching and learning of French in line with the recommendations. There was also evidence of improved student outcomes in the certificate examinations. However, there was little evidence of progress in relation to subject planning.

Recommendations

All teachers of French should engage with the subject planning process, both in the development of schemes of work and in the sharing of practice regarding teaching and learning. Of particular importance is the collaborative planning and sharing of practice needed to meet the requirements of the new Junior Cycle specification for modern foreign languages.

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.

Appendix

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

Submitted by the Board of Management

Part A Observations on the content of the inspection report

The French Department have discussed the findings of the follow up report and finds them to be a fair assessment of the teaching and learning in Oatlands College. The French Department looks forward to the new Junior Cycle French Syllabus Programme as an opportunity to develop and improve upon our communication as a department, and will endeavour to share in our practice regarding teaching and learning in its implementation.

Part B Follow-up actions planned or undertaken since the completion of the inspection activity to implement the findings and recommendations of the inspection

As regards the report's recommendation on the issue of subject department planning, you will be aware that the ASTI industrial action precluded teachers from becoming involved in subject planning. This action has now been withdrawn and as such subject planning meetings have recommenced. Knowing the limitations placed on the school at that time we feel this was an unfair comment.