

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	Saint Mary's Secondary School
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Holy Faith Convent Glasnevin Dublin 11
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	60770P

Date of Evaluation: 12-09-2017



WHAT IS A 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 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.

<p>ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS</p> <p>Type: Science and Chemistry Subject Inspection</p> <p>Date of Inspection: 27 February 2014</p> <p>Report Published: Yes</p>	<p>FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS</p> <p>Date of Inspection: 12 September 2017</p>
<p>Follow-through inspection activities</p>	
<p>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with the senior management team • Interview with subject co-ordinator • Interview with relevant teachers • Review of school documentation and records 	
<p>Recommendation in original inspection report</p>	<p>Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation</p>
<p>In order to have a more complete overview of the relevant issues either at individual or class level, the science department should liaise with senior management when planning for improved student attainment.</p>	<p>Very good progress</p> <p>Since the subject inspection, management in consultation with the science teachers has increased the timetable allocation for Science. As a result of this action, the uptake of higher-level Science has increased gradually over recent years.</p> <p>Poor attendance has been identified as an issue affecting student attainment and several whole-school initiatives have been put in place. These include the STEPS (Students Together Encouraging Participation) programme and a staff-student mentoring programme.</p> <p>With a view to increasing the progression of students to science-related third-level courses, the science department in conjunction with the school's guidance counsellors, is now tracking students' progression to such courses.</p> <p>The science department works closely with the special educational needs department in supporting students with additional learning needs; science teachers have participated in a team-teaching initiative in this regard.</p>
<p>Summary of findings</p>	
<p>The science department has given good consideration to the subject inspection recommendation and has worked well with management in promoting increased uptake of higher-level Science and greater progression to science-related third-level courses.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p>	
<p>No further recommendations arise in relation to the recommendations in the original report.</p>	

Appendix

School response to the report

Submitted by the Board of Management

Part A: Observations on the content of the inspection report

The Board of Management is very pleased that the report recognises and positively affirms the very good progress that has been achieved on the implementation of the recommendation in the original inspection report:

‘In order to have a more complete overview of the relevant issues either at individual or class level, the science department should liaise with senior management when planning for improved student attainment’.

We are happy that the report acknowledges and affirms good collaborative practice between management and the science department when planning for improved student attainment. We are pleased that the report also highlights:

- The increased timetable allocation for Science and the gradual increase in the uptake of higher-level Science.
- Whole-school initiatives to combat poor attendance and improve student attainment which impact positively on all subjects.
- Collaboration between guidance counsellors and the science department to track student progression to science-related third level courses.
- The close collaboration between the science department and the SEN department to support students with additional educational needs, including a team-teaching initiative.

Overall, we are happy that the report acknowledges that the science department has given good consideration to the subject department recommendation and has worked well with management in promoting increased uptake of higher-level Science and greater progression to science-related third-level courses. We are gratified also that no further recommendations arise in relation to the recommendations in the original report.

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

The Board of Management is gratified that there are no further recommendations and that senior management is committed to building upon the good practice outlined in the report.

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.