

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

**Follow-Through Inspection**

**REPORT**

<b>Ainm na scoile/ School name</b>	Saint Joseph's Secondary School
<b>Seoladh na scoile/ School address</b>	Stanhope St Dublin 7
<b>Uimhir rolla / Roll number</b>	60843Q

**Date of Evaluation: 21-05-2018**



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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 was given an opportunity to comment in writing on the findings and recommendations of the report; a response was not received from the board.

## **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.

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
<b>Type:</b> Subject Inspection of Science and Chemistry <b>Date of Inspection:</b> 23-03-2015 <b>Report Published:</b> Yes	<b>Date of Inspection:</b> 21-05-2018
<b>Follow-through inspection activities</b>	
<p>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with senior management team</li> <li>• Interview with relevant teachers</li> <li>• Review of school documentation and students' work</li> <li>• Review of resources and facilities</li> <li>• Observation of teaching and learning</li> <li>• Interaction with students</li> </ul>	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
Greater opportunity should be given during lessons for students to demonstrate the depth of their learning or understanding	<b>Good progress</b> A variety of assessment strategies was used during the lessons observed to give students appropriate opportunities to show their learning. Good use was made of directed questions to challenge individual students. All students were involved in completing worksheets and exam questions. In one lesson, very good use was made of an electronic quiz to engage the students.
The school should continue to address safety issues in the laboratories and prioritise the development of a Safety Statement	<b>Good progress</b> A safety statement has been completed with external expert assistance. The electrical supply in the laboratories has been completely upgraded. Though chemicals and other resources have been re-organised, cabinets for the storage of flammable substances are still required. The school has made efforts to progress repair of the gas supply, but the laboratories are still without a safe functioning gas system. Student experimental work requiring bunsen burners cannot be completed until the laboratories are fully functioning. The school should continue efforts to restore the laboratories to full functioning.
The science department should collaboratively develop and share good practice with respect to programmes of work, systems for maintaining and improving laboratory resources, teaching methodologies, tracking of student attainment, health and safety protocols, and assessment of laboratory notebooks	<b>Good progress</b> While aspects of subject planning have progressed, there is still scope for a greater level of collaboration. Programmes of work are still devised primarily by the teacher taking the particular year group rather than being developed by all teachers collectively. Some teachers use an electronic platform for sharing teaching resources. A whole-school academic tracking system is being established currently; however, the science department should develop specific

action plans to develop classroom practice with a view to enhancing student achievement.

The science teachers have engaged with professional development provided by the Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) support service. Implementation of the new specification for Science will require teachers to collaborate more closely; for example, in subject learning and assessment review (SLAR) meetings.

### **Summary of findings**

There has been good overall progress in the implementation of the recommendations from the original subject inspection. The school has made efforts to restore the laboratories gas supply and hope that a recent application for funding will be successful. The introduction of the new specification for Science and the professional development training provided by the JCT have supported greater collaboration among science teachers. As further training is accessed and whole-school initiatives such as academic tracking are implemented, a greater level of collaboration will support more effective subject planning.

### **Recommendations**

- School management should continue efforts to restore the laboratories to full functioning.
- The science department should continue to collaborate more closely on subject planning.

<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.