

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	Saint Mary's Diocesan School
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Beamore Road Drogheda County Louth
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	63841E

Date of Evaluation: 31-05-2017



FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
Type: WSE-MLL Date of Inspection: 3 December 2015 Report Published: Yes	Date of Inspection: 31 May 2017
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 and deputy principal • Interviews with relevant members of staff • Review of school documentation and records 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
The board should review more formally and monitor the progress of recommendations arising from evaluations in relation to teaching and learning.	Very good progress While there has been no further external evaluation conducted in the school since the WSE-MLL, it is clear that the senior management and the board have used the recommendations from the WSE-MLL to progress school improvement.
A review of posts of responsibility, prioritised by the board, should be undertaken during 2016.	Very good progress A review of the schedule of posts of responsibility has been completed with the assistance of an external facilitator and the support of a staff committee.
A review of the current arrangements for learning-support provision is needed, including the establishment of a smaller dedicated team.	Very good progress Significant changes have been implemented in the way learning support is provided. The number of teachers has been reduced so as to enhance the level of expertise. Timetabling arrangements for Irish in junior cycle now allow the creation of larger groups and more consistent provision of learning support. More resources are now available for the provision of learning support in senior cycle. Collaboration with the school's main feeder primary school is being used to support the introduction of team teaching as an additional means of providing learning support.
Recommendations in relation to increased use of differentiation and information and communications technology (ICT), exploitation of cross-curricular links and use of the target language by students should be progressed in teaching and learning.	Very good progress The school has had a very worthwhile involvement in TL21 and Forbairt projects relating to development of classroom practices; involvement in TL21 focused on differentiation and group work while a Forbairt project has focused on peer collaboration and review. The number of teachers involved in peer collaboration and review has grown from an initial involvement of two teachers to fourteen. A

	<p>review of the project conducted by the lead teachers has shown how successful the project has been, with teachers indicating a strong willingness to continue involvement in the project.</p> <p>Since the WSE-MLL, the school has launched a 'school app' which facilitates the sharing of information between school and home. Training for all staff in the use of electronic platforms has been organised for the start of the next school year.</p> <p>Several initiatives such as cultural trips to see foreign-language films and using students who are native speakers to assist with teaching and learning have promoted a greater use of the target language by students. Language teachers have also pursued relevant professional development opportunities.</p>
<p>Summary of findings</p>	
<p>Very good progress has been made in all of the recommendations. The school has actively used the recommendations from the WSE-MLL report to progress an improvement agenda in relevant areas of school life.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p>	
<p>No further recommendations arise in relation to the recommendations in the original report.</p>	

The board of management of the school was given an opportunity to comment on the findings and recommendations of the report; the board chose to accept the report without response.