

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	Our Lady Of Mercy Secondary School
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Ozanam St. Waterford
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	64971W

Date of Evaluation: 20-05-2019



An Roinn Oideachais
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 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 met the requirements in relation to each of the checks above.

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
<p>Type: Subject Inspection in Home Economics</p> <p>Date of Inspection: 16-03-2017</p> <p>Report Published: Yes</p>	<p>Date of Inspection: 20-05-2019</p>
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 senior management team • Interview with relevant teachers • Review of school documentation and students' work • Observation of teaching and learning • Interaction with students 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
<p>As relevant, teachers should reconsider their approach to lesson design and delivery to encompass approaches and strategies that shift the focus from teacher-led delivery to student-centred activity and learning.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>In the lessons observed, teachers had designed lessons to incorporate student-centred tasks and activities. Learning intentions had been designed for all lessons. In some instances, learning intentions were not explicit about the learning which should take place in the lesson. To enhance this area, it is recommended that all learning intentions be phrased in terms of what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of a lesson.</p> <p>A student-centred approach was evident in the delivery of lessons. Students had opportunities to be active in their learning through learning and practising textiles skills and sketching floor plans. In some instances, when engaging in activities, students' learning could have been advanced through additional teacher inputs to share success criteria. To further progress this area, it is recommended that success criteria be shared in all lessons before engaging in activities so that students are guided by these when completing work and assessing their work.</p>
<p>As necessary, and to inform better use of questioning, an exploration of what constitutes effective questioning should be undertaken by teachers, both individually and collectively as a subject department.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>The subject department has utilised the 'Focus on Learning' resource pack produced by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA). This has informed teachers of best practice and guided them in agreeing strategies to be implemented to improve the effectiveness of questioning. In the lessons observed, students were supported to answer questions and questions were open and in most cases well directed at individual students. Students' level of knowledge of new material and learning from the tasks they engaged in were not determined in all cases. To enhance this area,</p>

	the benefits of further utilising various questioning techniques should be explored and adopted by all teachers.
Management should consider how the teacher allocation might be best used to support better quality teaching and learning in Home Economics.	Very good progress Senior management are currently making very good use of teacher allocation to support teaching and learning in Home Economics. As recommended, the teaching of Home Economics in Transition Year (TY) is now being rotated. This recommendation has been fully addressed.
Subject department planning and preparation, both process and product, are in need of significant development, in line with the advice offered in the report.	Partial progress Some progress has been made including the review of programmes of work to ensure plans are developmental in nature. Positively, the TY plan has been modified to ensure that the skills and knowledge developed are different to that of Junior Cycle Home Economics. Additional progress is necessary in developing detailed subject department programmes of work. It is recommended that this be addressed on a topic-by-topic basis to include learning outcomes which integrate the development of procedural skills, resources, methodologies, school self-evaluation targets and assessment tasks. In addition, a subject-specific assessment policy for each year group would support assessment practices.
Summary of findings	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generally, good progress has been made in addressing the recommendations and in many cases substantial improvement has occurred. That said, there remains some scope for progress in certain areas. 	
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The subject department should discuss and agree the value of assessing learning intentions and sharing clear learning intentions and success criteria with students; strategies should be consistently used in all lessons. While some progress has been made in planning, additional progress is necessary. 	

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 welcomes the report and is pleased to see good progress has been made in addressing the recommendations and in many cases substantial improvement has occurred. The board noted that very good progress was recorded against one recommendation and good progress recorded against two other 2 recommendations. The board noted that partial progress was recorded against the final recommendation.

The board welcomes the recognition in the report of the progress that has been made including:

- Learning intentions had been designed for all lessons
- A student-centred approach was evident in the delivery of lessons
- Agreed strategies to be implemented to improve the effectiveness of questioning
- Modification of the TY plan to ensure that the skills and knowledge developed are different to that of junior cycle Home Economics

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 committed to implementing the recommendations outlined in the report. Recommendations will continue to be addressed at subject department planning level.

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.
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<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.
