

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

**Follow-Through Inspection**

**REPORT**

<b>Ainm na scoile/ School name</b>	Saint Jarlath's College
<b>Seoladh na scoile/ School address</b>	Tuam County Galway
<b>Uimhir rolla / Roll number</b>	68074M

**Date of Evaluation: 05-03-2019**



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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
<b>Type: Subject Inspection: Science</b> <b>Date of Inspection: 18-09-2014</b> <b>Report Published? Yes</b>	<b>Date of Inspection: 05-03-2019</b>
<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 principal</li> <li>• Interview with subject co-ordinator</li> <li>• Interview with relevant teachers</li> <li>• Review of school documentation and records 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
<p>The team of science teachers should build on their existing good planning practices by identifying actionable priorities for teaching and learning which, when implemented, will further improve students' learning.</p>	<p><b>Partial progress</b></p> <p>The science plan is a comprehensive document and shows that the science staff continues its good work in planning for delivery of the subject. Minutes of several meetings following the inspection of Science showed that the science teachers developed three strategies to support improvements in students' learning. These strategies were: prioritising wait time; estimation as a first step and then calculation; recapitulation using "3 things I learned today". However, the minutes of meetings did not indicate subsequent follow through on these strategies or the development of other strategies once these were embedded. This was reported as being because school self-evaluation (SSE) priorities overtook this work. Following a more recent incidental inspection the science staff discussed the findings at a subject department meeting. The main finding of increasing the use of active learning was noted by the teachers and it was clear there is a willingness to address this. Thus, further work in identifying actionable priorities for teaching and learning will yield benefits if a more systematic approach is taken to identifying, implementing and monitoring agreed priorities.</p>
<p>The school should explore all possible avenues to remediate the main science preparation area.</p>	<p><b>Good progress</b></p> <p>The school has made a detailed application to the Department of Education and Skills to develop the science facilities, including the science preparation area. The school is awaiting a formal response from the Department and following that, action will be taken to progress the development work. In the interim, the school should</p>

	explore other possibilities to enhance the facilities and address any maintenance issues that are within its scope to progress.
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**Summary of findings**

Partial progress has been achieved in identifying and taking action on priorities to support the development of teaching and learning. Further work in this area will help to support the ongoing improvement of students' learning. The school has taken suitable action by applying to the Department for funding for the improvement of its science facilities. Once funding becomes available the remediation work will be completed.

**Recommendations**

- The science teachers should include strategies to support teaching and learning as an agenda item for their subject department meetings and ensure that for each term they identify one strategy, implement this during the term and evaluate progress at the subsequent meeting.

# **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 of Saint Jarlath's College welcomes this subject inspection report, as it acknowledges the ongoing good work and practices of the science department in the school and acts as a positive guide towards on-going development.

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

*Recommendation 1: The team of science teachers should build on their existing good planning practices by identifying actionable priorities for teaching and learning which, when implemented, will further improve students' learning.*

The inspection report concludes that there is partial progress achieved on this matter. As a department, we accept the findings and do not find any of the report untrue. The report recommends that *"The science teachers should include strategies to support teaching and learning as an agenda item for their subject department meetings and ensure that for each term they identify one strategy, implement this during the term and evaluate progress at the subsequent meeting."*

Following a Department meeting, subsequent to the inspection of 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019, we have collectively agreed that further strategies to improve teaching and learning will be monitored and referred to at science department meetings. Until the end of the 2018/2019 academic year, one of these strategies is to implement and embed the use of "Three things I learned today". How this teaching and learning strategy is implemented is up to each teacher and may vary from class group to class group. Approaches include, but not limited to, verbal questioning, the use of copy books or the use of post-its. Teachers will refer back to these approaches at the next department meeting and appraise their effectiveness as a teaching and learning tool. Once embedded, the department will decide to implement a further, achievable teaching and learning strategy that we hope to put into practice for the 2019-2020 academic year. It is hoped that this approach will yield positive learning outcomes for students and form part of a systemic formative assessment structure for the teachers concerned.

*Recommendation 2: The school should explore all possible avenues to remediate the main science preparation area.*

The Inspection Report found that the school has made good progress in this area. As a department, we hope to highlight any areas that can be improved in the short to medium term, while waiting from sufficient funding the Department of Education and Skills to update the laboratories and preparation areas.

<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.