An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

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<tr>
<th>Ainm na scoile/ School name</th>
<th>St Joseph's Community College</th>
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<tr>
<td>Seoladh na scoile/ School address</td>
<td>Carrigaholt Rd.</td>
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<td>Kilkee</td>
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<td>Co. Clare</td>
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<td>Uimhir rolla / Roll number</td>
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Date of Evaluation: 08 May 2017
## Follow-Through Inspection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS</th>
<th>FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Type:</strong> Subject Inspection: Business Studies and Accounting</td>
<td><strong>Date of Inspection:</strong> 08 May 2017</td>
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<td><strong>Date of Inspection:</strong> 24 November 2014</td>
<td><strong>Report Published?</strong> Yes</td>
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### Follow-through inspection activities

The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection:

- Meeting with principal
- Interview with the subject co-ordinator
- Review of school documentation and records and students' work
- Observation of teaching and learning
- Interaction with students

### Recommendation in original inspection report

**Teachers should further develop pair and group work activities as a strategy for differentiation.**

### Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation

**Very good progress**

- Each business scheme of work includes a list of suggested methodologies linked to the outcomes for the programme. A very good range of strategies that focus on active and collaborative learning strategies is documented in the schemes.
- Subject department meeting minutes show regular pedagogical discussion and review of the collaborative learning approaches used.
- In the lessons observed, students were seated in pairs. They had opportunities to work in these pairs and engage in peer teaching activities.
- A teacher in the department has been involved in piloting a teaching and learning initiative, focused on formative assessment approaches.

**The subject department should work more closely with the guidance department and school management to promote the uptake of the business department at senior cycle.**

**Very good progress**

- After the original inspection, the principal and subject teachers met to discuss strategies for promoting subject uptake, including working with the guidance counsellor.
- Business teachers are tracking the uptake of the subjects and, given the student population, participation in optional Business Studies at junior cycle is exceptionally high.
The subject teachers should develop a protocol for ensuring that the relevant subject support materials are updated to reflect current business conditions.

Partial progress
- This is an area that still requires development.
- Multimedia presentations using current business exemplars were used in lessons.
- The textbook for first-year students is only currently being decided and there was evidence of reliance on the materials more appropriate to the old course for example, un-adapted past examination question sets were used as in-class and assessment resources.
- Teachers have availed of the continuing professional development (CPD) provided by Junior Cycle for Teachers and are members of the subject association, which provides access to up-to-date materials and information.

Summary of findings
- Systems for monitoring uptake levels and for promoting business subjects are in place.
- Subject plans and associated schemes of work include very good detail on active learning and collaborative learning approaches and relevant resources are documented.
- In the lessons observed, students were encouraged to work in pairs and there was additional evidence of planned group work opportunities in junior cycle.
- There is discussion at subject department meetings on pedagogical approaches and reflection on the approaches used.
- Teachers and senior management are involved in promoting business subjects to parents and students.

Recommendations
- There is scope to develop the question sets used with first-year students to reflect the aims and objectives of the new specification for Business Studies.

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.