

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	St Paul's Community College
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Browne's Road Waterford City
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	72241E

Date of Evaluation: 12-12-2016



Follow-Through Inspection

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
Type: WSE-MLL Date of Inspection: April 2013 Report Published? Yes	Date of Inspection: 12-12-2016
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 members of in-school management team • Interview with relevant teachers • Review of school documentation and records of students' work • Observation of teaching and learning • Interaction with students 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
<p>Interrelated priorities identified for development should be clustered together and strategic plans should be developed for each cluster.</p>	<p>Good progress Priorities relating to leadership and management have been addressed. This was achieved through a review of posts of responsibility and greater distributed leadership including the provision of continuing professional development opportunities. Priorities relating to the leadership of students are currently being addressed though initiatives aimed at improving students' academic progression.</p>
<p>The senior management team should further develop its leadership role, to progress the school at a time of significant change.</p>	<p>Very good progress The senior management team has undertaken a range of initiatives to lead the school in terms of its school improvement agenda. Training has been provided to support assistant principals (APs). There is greater consultation with APs in relation to school issues and a there is a greater focus on affording distributed leadership opportunities to all members of staff.</p>
<p>Senior management and staff should explore ways in which middle management duties and responsibilities can continue to be fulfilled within available resources.</p>	<p>Very good progress, The middle management resource has been maximised by creating a senior-cycle year head and having the programme co-ordinator act as year head for both Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Applied students. APs reported being consulted more as a middle management team; they felt that their views were taken more into consideration.</p>

<p>Systems to mentor and track students' academic progress should be considered to complement the high quality pastoral supports in place.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>A range of initiatives has been put in place to bring about academic improvement. There is greater discussion among staff about student learning. Students are now required to set targets for themselves and reports for senior cycle and third-year students include comments on effort and commitment as well as performance. A greater focus has been placed on student attendance as a factor influencing academic success. Students reported appreciation of the very helpful formative feedback provided by some teachers to support them in their work.</p>
<p>Teachers should ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained between teacher instruction and active student engagement.</p>	<p>Partial progress</p> <p>The observation of teaching and learning undertaken on the day of the follow through inspection indicated that there is still scope for improvement in affording students opportunities to engage orally in lessons. There were some lessons where teacher instruction dominated and where tasks were set they were not sufficiently purposeful to bring about active engagement and learning.</p>
<p>Summary of findings</p>	
<p>Very good work has been instigated to address the recommendations contained in the WSE-MLL report, particularly in the area of leadership of staff and students. There is still scope for improvement regarding the teaching methodologies used to ensure more active student engagement in all lessons.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p>	
<p>A whole-school initiative should be undertaken to ensure that all teachers adopt methodologies that support active student engagement and learning, which will in turn contribute to the school's priority of improving academic attainment. Greater use of written formative feedback should also be progressed as part of this initiative.</p>	

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.

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 positive comments of the Inspectorate regarding the high level of engagement with the key recommendations made (with particular attention to appraising its success in terms of leadership and middle management) in the original WSE/MLL 2013. The Board is very pleased to congratulate the school community on receipt of this very positive draft report. It is gratifying to have our present work commended by the inspectorate and to know that we can embrace the recommendations for improvement with confidence.

The Board acknowledges the Follow Through Inspection of 12th December 2016 and its evaluation of the progress the school has made in implementing the main recommendations of the original report. The Board is delighted the Inspectorate affirms the excellent work carried out by a committed staff and is particularly pleased with the progress made to date in the following areas; Leadership and management, enhanced middle management team and the range of initiatives and consultative initiatives that have been put in place to bring about academic improvement where the Board, School Leadership Team and Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) have invested considerable time, energy and resources.

The Board acknowledges the scope for improvement in Teaching and Learning. The Board has and continues to invest in considerable Teacher Professional Development and Upskilling as evidenced by that undertaken by the school in terms of teacher engagement. This has included Instructional Leadership, TCD Post Graduate Certificate in 21st Century Teaching & Learning, Mike Hughes 'Magenta Principles' Teaching & Learning Workshops, PDST & SESS continuing professional development opportunities, Experiential Learning facilitated by school staff, JCT workshops and School Self Evaluation and School Improvement Plan. The highly motivated teaching staff and the support of WWETB who are commencing 'professional communities of learning and teaching networks' will further enhance this process.

The Board remains committed to its work in the areas of Strategic Planning, Leadership, Middle Management, Continuing Professional Development opportunities and initiatives to bring about academic improvement. The Board will continue to work on the recommendations with the Senior Leadership team, Staff, Parents, WWETB and all members of the school community to ensure the best outcome for all students.

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, Senior Leadership Team and WWETB will continue to work on the recommendations of the report in consultation with the staff.
- The Board of Management, Senior Leadership Team and WWETB will provide opportunities for teachers to share good practice and actively engage students in lessons.
- A whole-school initiative will be undertaken to ensure that all teachers adopt methodologies that support active student engagement and learning enhanced by cross WWETB school/teacher network initiatives to ensure good practice is captured and implemented from other schools.
- Greater use of written formative feedback will be progressed as part of this initiative.
- St. Paul's Community College will continue to work with the Inspectorate in order to continually improve the educational experience and opportunities for our students.