

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

**Follow-Through Inspection**

**REPORT**

<b>School name</b>	Borrisokane Community College
<b>School address</b>	Borrisokane Co Tipperary
<b>Roll number</b>	72370P

**Date of Evaluation: 24-11-2016**



## Follow-Through Inspection

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
<b>Type: Subject Inspection – Science and Physics</b> <b>Date of Inspection: 25-11-2013</b> <b>Report Published: Yes</b>	<b>Date of Inspection: 24-11-2016</b>
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"> <li>• Meeting with senior management team</li> <li>• Interview with members of in-school management team or 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
The formative feedback approach used with students' copybooks should be further extended to students' practical copybooks.	<b>Very good progress</b> The science department has very successfully implemented this recommendation. In a small number of cases, teachers should encourage students to write up their practical work in their own words to help them to develop their scientific reporting skills.
Senior management should consider reviewing the practice of providing two double classes to Physics in senior cycle in order to allow students more regular contact with the subject throughout the week.	<b>Good progress</b> The option bands generated by student choice has the consequence of matching subjects of differing fields. Providing two double class periods during the week is preferred in certain subjects. Senior management has compromised by alternating the provision of one or two double periods during the two year senior cycle when these issues arise.
Schemes of work are of a high standard, though there is scope to enhance them by including specific teaching methodologies suitable for each topic with an estimated time frame. It is also recommended that more Physics is taught in first-year Science.	<b>Very good progress</b> The science department has implemented all these planning recommendations.
Teachers should extend differentiation strategies to the high-achieving students.	<b>Good progress</b> During the evaluation a variety of good differentiation practices was observed. Senior management also reported that this is an area that it is looking to broaden as a whole-school strategy for school self-evaluation (SSE).

### **Summary of findings**

- The science department has very successfully implemented the practice of providing students with written formative feedback in their practical copybooks.
- Senior management is providing one double and three single class periods for Physics in sixth-year and two double and one single class periods in fifth-year.
- The schemes of work now include an estimated time frame for topics, methodologies have sufficient detail to enhance planning and, there is a better balance of the sciences taught in first-year.
- Evidence of a variety of effective differentiation strategies was observed during the evaluation.

### **Recommendations**

- All students should be encouraged to write up their practical work in their own words in order to help them to develop their scientific reporting skills.
- Senior management should broaden the differentiation strategies employed by all teachers across the school by implementing a whole-school approach through SSE.

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 of Borrisokane Community College welcomes the positive Follow Through Inspection Report and are very pleased with progress made on recommendations from the November 2013 inspection.

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

As part of School Development Planning teachers are continuing to embed Formative Assessment Strategies in their lessons. A school wide focus on Differentiation will form part of the current School Self Evaluation Process.