

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	Millstreet Community School
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Millstreet Town Co Cork
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	91390F

Date of Evaluation: 12-10-2017



WHAT IS A 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.

Follow-Through Inspection

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
<p>Type: WSE-MLL</p> <p>Date of Inspection: 5 February 2016</p> <p>Report Published? Yes</p>	<p>Date of Inspection: 12 October 2017</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 members of the in-school management team • Interview with relevant teachers • Review of school documentation and records 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
<p>The role of the board in ensuring compliance and related best practice should be strengthened.</p>	<p>Partial progress</p> <p>The board of management, in conjunction with the senior management team, has begun to address this recommendation. All junior cycle students are now timetabled for Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE). While all class groups are timetabled for Physical Education (PE), some classes are still timetabled for a single period instead of the more desirable double period. It also remains that PE in senior cycle is timetabled opposite the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) and, therefore, students undertaking this programme do not have access to a weekly PE lesson. While there has been a reduction in the inappropriate timetabling of study periods in senior cycle, this matter needs to be fully addressed.</p>
<p>It is recommended that the post structure be reviewed.</p>	<p>Very good progress</p> <p>Senior management, in conjunction with the staff, initiated a review of the post structure. On the advice of the Joint Managerial Body (JMB) and the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools (ACSS), this will be finalised once the Department of Education and Skills issues the pending circular regarding leadership and management in post-primary schools.</p>
<p>All key support personnel ought to be facilitated to attend regular meetings.</p>	<p>Very good progress</p> <p>In addition to the deputy principal and chaplain, the guidance counsellor, Special Educational Needs (SEN) co-ordinator, and SPHE co-ordinator now also attend meetings designed to discuss students' support needs. The periodic inclusion of class tutors at such meetings</p>

	is also being accommodated. These meetings are now timetabled more regularly, occurring once a fortnight, approximately.
A greater percentage of the general allocation should be prioritised for the provision of additional individual guidance and counselling	Very good progress The guidance counsellor's timetable has been adjusted to accommodate one-to-one guidance and counselling sessions with students. Senior management's considered and strategic response to this recommendation, one which sees the alignment of the guidance counsellor's availability with periods when relevant students are timetabled for non-examination subjects, is helping to ensure that students avail of the opportunity to access this valuable guidance and support.
A curriculum review is recommended.	Good progress A restructuring of the timetable, which resulted in the loss of two lesson periods over the week, promoted the first steps in a curriculum review. Further work is planned.
Favourable consideration ought to be given to the introduction of focused peer observation.	Very good progress One subject department began to engage with peer observation in 2016-17, and another subject department is due to come on board this year. Participating teachers are very positive about the experience. Senior management is very supportive of this work and believes that the level of participation will increase over time.
Summary of findings	
The school has made very good progress in relation to the majority of the recommendations made during the WSE-MLL evaluation. The school has also progressed, albeit to a lesser extent, the recommendations provided in relation to the curriculum and timetabling. However, senior management is acutely aware of the additional work that is required in this area in light of both identified compliance matters and the new Junior Cycle programme.	
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work is required in relation to reviewing the curriculum, and this should include working to ensure equality of access to PE for all students and the elimination of study periods on all students' timetables. The board of management, in conjunction with senior management, should have appropriate oversight in addressing these matters. 	

The board of management 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.

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.
<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.

Appendix

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

Submitted by the Board of Management

Area 1 Observations on the content of the inspection report

Millstreet Community School wishes to acknowledge the very positive follow-up Inspection Report issued by the D.E.S. Inspectorate.

Area 2 Follow-up actions planned or undertaken since the completion of the inspection activity to implement the findings and recommendations of the inspection.

The School welcomes the recommendations made and as part of the school self-evaluation will give them due consideration. The school will continue to provide high quality education for our community.