

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	St. Brendan's Community School
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Birr Co. Offaly
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	91491L

Date of Evaluation: 21-03-2017



Follow-Through Inspection

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
Type: WSE-MLL	Date of Inspection: 21-03-2017
Date of Inspection: January 2016	
Report Published: Yes	
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 or subject co-ordinator • Interview with relevant members of staff • Review of school documentation and records and students' work • Observation of teaching and learning • Interaction with pupils/students 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
<p>The board must ensure that the school is compliant with Department of Education and Skills regulations in a number of areas.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>The voluntary nature of the registration fee is now made clear in admissions documents and the internet Acceptable Use Policy has been revised and applies to all users of school IT systems.</p> <p>The final two periods of Wednesday afternoon are no longer used for fifth-year and sixth-year sports and the school is now in line with circular M29/95. In addition, Physical Education is now provided for sixth-year students within the timetable.</p> <p>Substantial progress has been made, with the support of the Special Education Support Service, in the implementation and management of special education, resource support and the autistic spectrum disorders unit. The appropriate deployment of teaching time, provided to support students with additional educational needs, is improving and substantial additional time has been made available to the special education department. However, the full extent of the staffing resource is still not used as it should be and further improvement is needed.</p> <p>The revised clause in the admissions policy, regarding the admission to the school of students with additional needs, is still not adequate to eliminate conditional entry and needs to be further revised.</p>

<p>A greater level of oversight by the board is required to improve the quality of teaching and learning.</p>	<p>Good progress The board is well informed in relation to teaching and learning matters and the outcomes of certificate examinations. Subject departments are now required to report annually to the board on their performance. Planning for improvement should now be initiated by subject departments under board supervision.</p>
<p>The development of subject department planning in general and planning for improvement within subjects should be progressed.</p>	<p>Partial progress There is considerable variation evident in the quality of subject department planning. Most departments have progressed very well with scheduling of course delivery and others still have some work to do. The common planning template adopted by school management should be used by all subject departments. Planning for improvement is evident in only a few subject department folders and there is still considerable work to be done by most departments.</p>
<p>The integration of a variety of teaching initiatives into classroom practice needs to be prioritised and implemented.</p>	<p>Partial progress It is very positive that the influence of instructional leadership and co-operative learning initiatives were evident during the course of the lessons observed. However, subject department folders make no reference to these and they do not appear to be integral to subject planning. Subject departments should take cognisance, in their planning, of instructional leadership and co-operative learning initiatives.</p>
<p>Summary of findings</p>	
<p>Very good improvement is evident in a number of areas, in particular those areas related to the senior management function within the school. While some improvements are apparent in relation to subject department planning, there is more work to be done.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p>	
<p>No further recommendations arise in relation to the recommendations in the original report.</p>	

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.

Appendix

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

Submitted by the Board of Management

Area 1 Observations on the content of the inspection report

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

Response to the Follow Through

The Board of Management is pleased that the Inspectorate has acknowledged that substantial progress has been made in the areas highlighted in the WSE/MLL Report which issued in June 2016.

The School Admissions Policy has been further revised to eliminate conditional entry.

St. Brendan's acknowledges the support and advice received from SESS in the management of Special Education. Some adjustments have been made in the deployment of teaching time and work is ongoing.

In respect of Subject Department Planning, it must be acknowledged that the subject planning and meeting times afforded by Croke Park hours have not been available since the staff received the report in September 2016, due to the industrial action. Subject Planning and Planning for improvement are a priority.