

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

**Follow-Through Inspection**

**REPORT**

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

**Date of Evaluation: 12-03-2018**



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An Roinn Oideachais  
agus Scileanna  
Department of  
Education and Skills

## **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.

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

During the inspection visit, the following checks in relation to the school's child protection procedures were conducted:

1. The name of the DLP and the Child Safeguarding Statement are prominently displayed near the main entrance to the school.
2. The Child Safeguarding Statement has been ratified by the board and includes an annual review and a risk assessment.
3. All teachers visited reported that they have read the Child Safeguarding Statement and that they are aware of their responsibilities as mandated persons.

The school did not meet the requirements in relation to 2 above and therefore was not fully compliant with the checks undertaken. However, the school has subsequently furnished evidence of compliance with these requirements.

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS		FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS	
Type: WSE-MLL		Date of Inspection: 12-03-2018	
Date of Inspection: 20 January 2016			
Report Published: Yes			
Follow-through inspection activities			
The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Principal and senior management team</li> <li>• Interview with members of in-school management team and subject co-ordinator</li> <li>• Review of school documentation and records</li> </ul>			
Recommendation in original inspection report		Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation	
The board must ensure that the school is compliant with Department of Education and Skills regulations in a number of areas.		<p><b>Very good progress</b></p> <p>Further substantial progress has been made in relation to support for students with additional educational needs. The allocated teaching hours are now fully applied for the purpose intended. In addition, a deputy principal has taken responsibility for this area and thorough and comprehensive planning processes are in place to ensure the needs of students are met while retaining flexibility to cater for further individual needs as they arise.</p> <p>A revised admissions policy, which meets the requirements of relevant legislation regarding the elimination of conditional acceptance of students, has been prepared for ratification at the next meeting of the board.</p>	
The development of subject department planning in general and planning for improvement within subjects should be progressed.		<p><b>Partial progress</b></p> <p>A range of subject department folders, both in hard copy and in digital format, were reviewed. All departments are now providing annual reports for the board on their activities and on certificate examination outcomes for students. Some departments are using the school-developed planning template. Those that are using the template are, indirectly, showing evidence of the instructional leadership and co-operative learning initiatives in their planning. Otherwise, there is no reference to these initiatives in many of the plans. Planning for improvement, where it exists, is still very basic and aspirational and lacks firm targets and actions taken to achieve these.</p>	
Summary of findings			
The issues in relation to special educational provision are now fully resolved and a quality service is being provided to students. Likewise, upon ratification by the board, the issues in relation to the admissions policy will have been			

resolved.

Some subject departments still have work to do in relation to planning and working towards improvement and only some have taken previous recommendations on board.

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that, building on their annual reports to the board, subject departments engage in action planning for improvement and document this work. The remaining subject departments should also document how the instructional leadership and co-operative learning initiatives are being used to influence classroom practice.

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.

<b>THE QUALITY CONTINUUM FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTIONS</b>
<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**

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## **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 board is pleased with your recognition of the improvement and very good progress of the previous recommendations in relation to our compliance in a number of areas most notably the support for students with additional educational needs. The partial progress in the development of subject planning is also noted. In an effort to further improve this area we have recently introduced the Office 365 platform to all departments which we believe will allow us to achieve a uniform and consistent approach to subject planning. It is our intention to develop a more consistent approach to subject planning whilst incorporating instructional and co-operative learning initiatives directly into our planning. In order to encourage formative assessment within the entire school community we have recently agreed to use the Battelle for Kids online platform which will aid teacher CPD in this area while allowing certification in formative assessment methods. In informing our future practices we have agreed that planning for improvement targets will be more specific, measurable, realistic and agreed within a certain time frame.