

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	Loreto Community School
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Milford County Donegal
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	91500J

Date of Evaluation: 25-09-2017



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.

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.

Follow-Through Inspection

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS Type: Subject Inspection (French) Date of Inspection: 01-10-2015 Report Published: Yes	FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS Date of Inspection: 25-09-2017
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 principal • Interview with relevant teachers • Review of school documentation and records and students' work • Observation of teaching and learning • Interaction with students 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
<p>Students should be given the linguistic strategies to enable them to interact in the target language and opportunities should be afforded to them in every lesson to put their newly acquired skills into practice.</p>	<p>Partial progress</p> <p>There was evidence of some progress in all lessons observed where teachers created more opportunities for students to interact in the target language. Very good practice was noted in one lesson where the teacher created ongoing opportunities in the lesson to support active and purposeful student interaction in French.</p> <p>An examination of student copybooks from across all year groups indicated that the homework assigned by some teachers places a strong focus on grammar and translation. This approach does not allow for students to put their newly acquired skills into practice thereby supporting their writing skills development. It also limits the opportunities for teachers to provide students with the formative feedback necessary to help them progress their language learning.</p>
<p>Teachers should adopt methodologies that promote more active student engagement, and challenge the higher-achieving students appropriately.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>A teaching and learning committee has been established since the inspection and includes one member of the French department. Most of the teachers of French have attended the optional monthly presentations on aspects of active teaching and learning organised by this committee. There was evidence of a better balance between teacher delivery and student activity, and of more active student participation through pair or group work in the majority of lessons observed.</p>
<p>The subject planning agenda should include greater discussion of teaching and learning, and strategies should be developed to support the appropriate uptake of levels in the Certificate examinations and to further improve student attainment.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>Subject planning has progressed. Records of recent subject department meetings indicate greater discussion of teaching and learning. The subject department's decision to participate in the Junior Certificate optional oral examination arose in response to the recommendations and this is welcomed. Some improvements have also been noted in student attainment in the Certificate examinations.</p>

Summary of findings

Good progress has been made in planning and in the promotion of active teaching and learning strategies. This resulted in the observation of an exemplary lesson in one instance. Improved practice was noted in the other lessons observed, but with scope for further development in some instances.

Recommendations

- Improvement is still required in lessons where copybooks showed evidence of a strong focus on grammar and translation.

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 Loreto Community School welcomes the report and the very positive findings of the report. The report acknowledges that we have improved the range of active learning methodologies and a better balance between teacher delivery and student activity.

The French Department will continue to work on its subject plan with particular attention to building on the very good purposeful interactions in French evident in the lessons observed and will continue to further develop and improve opportunities to share good practice regarding teaching and learning in a collaborative way.

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

- *Improvement is still required where copybooks showed evidence of a strong focus on grammar and translation.*

Whilst we acknowledge the importance of grammar in a language such as French, we understand that we need to incorporate further the newly acquired target language skills and use them as a basis for homework, and this best practice will be employed by the French Department.

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.
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<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.
