

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

School name	Blackwater Community School
School address	Ballyanchor Road Lismore Co Waterford
Roll number	91509E

Date of Evaluation: 26-04-2017



Follow-Through Inspection

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
Type: Subject Inspection of Business Subjects Date of Inspection: May 2014 Report Published Yes	Date of Inspection: 26-04-2017
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 senior management team • Interview with members of in-school management team and subject co-ordinator • Interview with relevant teachers • Review of school documentation and students' work • Observation of teaching and learning in two single and two double lessons • Interaction with students 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
<p>Teachers should incorporate a variety of active learning methodologies, more effective use of information and communication technology (ICT) and the further development of a visual learning environment into their practice.</p>	<p>Good progress Overall there was good progress in advancing this recommendation. In the majority of lessons observed, progress was very good, while in the remainder there was partial progress. In lessons where very good progress was evident, teachers used a variety of active learning methodologies such as quizzes, group and pair work. In addition, the effective use of ICT provided students with good learning resources such as high quality video and visual inputs and a virtual learning sharing platform. The provision of a business notice board in the school corridor is a good development. However, much work remains in developing a visual learning environment in the main business classroom.</p>
<p>Questioning strategies and assessment for learning (AfL) practices should be developed and strengthened in all lessons.</p>	<p>Good progress Overall there was good progress in advancing this recommendation. In the majority of lessons observed, there was very good progress while in the remainder there was partial progress. Very good questioning strategies were used in the majority of lessons observed. At the outset of the majority of lessons, general learning intentions were stated but not reviewed.</p>

<p>There should be agreement among the teachers regarding the type and quality of homework assigned to students, and written formative feedback should be given to students, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>The business department's homework policy states how regular homework should be assigned. This policy requires further development.</p> <p>Some very good formative and affirming feedback was observed in students' copybooks and written work, however, in some lessons there was scope to further develop this good practice.</p>
<p>The content of the business subjects plan and each curricular plan should be developed collaboratively as a manual on how to provide the best possible business education in the school.</p>	<p>Partial progress</p> <p>The overall content of the business plan has improved in terms of information, such as the literacy and numeracy strategies used in the business department. A common scheme of work for each business subject is being adhered to by most teachers which also enables common assessment. However, there has been no additional information added to each subjects' curricular plan as recommended in the report.</p>
<p>Summary of findings</p>	
<p>The recommendations have been acted upon in a considered manner by most teachers. Overall, there has been good progress on the recommendations relating to teaching, learning and assessment practices. The framing of learning intentions, the provision of a visual learning environment in classrooms, the homework policy and curricular plans are areas that require further development.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p>	
<p>All teachers should ensure they incorporate a variety of active learning methodologies and more effective use of ICT in their pedagogical practice and that formative feedback is given to students.</p> <p>The visual learning environment in classrooms where business education is delivered should be developed.</p> <p>Learning intentions should be outlined in the form of what students should be able to do, know and understand by the end of the lesson and the use of success criteria and review procedures should also be adopted by all teachers.</p> <p>The type and quality of homework expected from students for each business subject in each year group should be agreed by the business department.</p> <p>In each business subject's curriculum plan, the learning outcomes, methodologies, differentiated teaching strategies, resources and homework modes should be aligned to each topic for delivery in the classroom.</p>	

The board of management was given an opportunity to comment in writing on the findings and recommendations of the report; a response was not received from the board.