

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection

REPORT

Ainm na scoile/ School name	Gallen Community School
Seoladh na scoile/ School address	Ferbane Co Offaly
Uimhir rolla / Roll number	91515W

Date of Evaluation: 10-01-2018



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.

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW-THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
<p>Type: Subject Inspection of French</p> <p>Date of Inspection: 03-05-2016</p> <p>Report Published: Yes</p>	<p>Date of Inspection: 10-01-2018</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"> • Interview with Principal and subject co-ordinator • Review of school documentation • Observation of teaching and learning • Interaction with students • Meeting with senior management team 	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
<p>The target language should be used consistently by all teachers in line with the requirements of the syllabus.</p>	<p>Very good progress</p> <p>Teachers used the target language consistently during the three lessons observed. It is positive that strategies other than translation were generally employed to support student understanding where necessary. It was evident that students were familiar with French as the language of instruction.</p>
<p>An integrated approach to teaching the different language skills should be adopted by all teachers and for all lessons.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>Language skills were generally well integrated into each lesson and, overall, good progress has been made in this area.</p>
<p>Teachers should ensure that student use of the target language is progressed by providing opportunities in every lesson for student-teacher and student-student interaction in French and by introducing an oral assessment for each year group.</p>	<p>Partial progress</p> <p>Opportunities for students to use the target language were observed. These could be further increased through a more brisk lesson pace that would allow the balance between teacher and student voice within lessons to be addressed.</p> <p>It is positive to note that oral assessments have been extended to a number of year groups; however an oral assessment for all year groups remains as an area for development.</p>
<p>Teachers should ensure that all student tasks are sufficiently purposeful to facilitate active and independent learning.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>Tasks provided were purposeful and should, as the student voice becomes more central within lessons, facilitate and lead to greater prominence of active and independent learning within lessons.</p>

Summary of findings

- Overall, good progress has been made in terms of implementing the majority of the recommendations arising out of the subject inspection. There is, however, scope to further develop student use of French.

Recommendations

- Greater opportunities for students to use the target language should be facilitated through the development of a learning environment where active student engagement is central to the learning experience.
- An oral assessment should be introduced for all year groups.

CHILD PROTECTION

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

1. The school principal is aware that revised child protection procedures for primary and post-primary schools came into effect on 11 December 2017 and arrangements are in place to begin the process of implementing these procedures.
2. The name of the designated liaison person for child protection matters was prominently displayed near the main door of the school.
3. The school has a Child Protection policy in place.
4. All teachers are aware that they are mandated persons and of their responsibilities in that regard.

The school met the requirements in relation to each of the checks above.

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.
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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.

Appendix

SCHOOL RESPONSE TO THE REPORT

Submitted by the Board of Management

Area 1 Observations on the content of the inspection report

The Board of Management of Gallen Community School Ferbane welcome the findings of the follow through Inspection.

We welcome the acknowledgement that significant progress has been made on the implementation of recommendations from a previous 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.

Senior Management will continue to work with the French Department to ensure that students continue to use the target language through active student engagement in all classes.

Oral assessments in French will be extended to all year groups.