

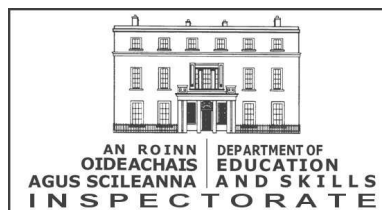
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

Department of Education and Skills

**Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT**

**Sancta Maria College
Louisburgh, County Mayo
Uimhir rolla: 64660F**

Date of inspection: 29 April 2015



Date of original inspection	24 April 2012	Type of original report	WSE-MLL	Date of FT inspection	29 April 2015
Report published	Yes				
Follow-through inspection activities					
<p><i>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</i></p> <p>Meeting with senior management team Meeting with relevant teachers Observation of teaching and learning Interaction with students Review of school documentation and records and students' work Review of resources and facilities</p>					
Recommendation in original inspection report		Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation			
<p>The board should oversee the development of a strategic time-bound plan to advance its identified developmental priorities.</p>		<p>Very good progress The school continues to engage in ongoing collaborative action planning to address its identified developmental priorities. The school planning team, led by the co-ordinator ensures that task groups of teachers are actively engaged in action planning. The board has an active role in overseeing school planning. Of particular merit is the progress made with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) linking school development planning to school self-evaluation (b) ongoing continuing professional development (c) greater use of information and communication technology (ICT) (d) developing school accommodation 			
<p>Subject department planning should be further developed in a small number of subjects.</p>		<p>Very good progress Very good quality subject planning was evident with some exemplary practice noted. There was some good examples of subject self-evaluation, for example, the use of SCOT (strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats) analysis and the analysis of certificate examination results. Most schemes of work are very well-advanced. There is scope for teachers to use schemes of work as working documents.</p>			
<p>Once completed the guidance plan should be progressed for ratification by the board.</p>		<p>Very good progress The well-developed guidance plan reflects a whole-school approach to Guidance. It was ratified by the board of management on 27 February 2013. The guidance plan has a good emphasis on review and reflection with a number of developmental areas outlined by the guidance team.</p>			
<p>The use of active learning methodologies should be extended throughout the school.</p>		<p>Very good progress There was extensive evidence of improvement with regard to the very good range of active learning methodologies employed in the lessons observed. This was supplemented by good questioning techniques as well as good use of ICT to support students' learning. In the context of the school's commitment to trialling peer observation, it is envisaged that more opportunities will be available for effective practice to be shared.</p>			

<p>Until the proposed extension is in place it is recommended that any health and safety risks associated with the current accommodation be kept under review and appropriate actions be taken as necessary.</p>	<p>Good progress</p> <p>In the interim period, the school has carried out a number of essential improvements to school accommodation. Notwithstanding regular risk assessment across the school and the annual review of the health and safety statement, there are still some issues, however, it is envisaged that these will be addressed when the school gains its proposed extension. The school expressed a sense of urgency with regards to proceeding with the extension as enrolment has been increasing steadily and currently, the school is over maximum capacity.</p>
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Summary of findings

- The school has taken a strategic approach to implementing the recommendations of the WSE-MLL and very good progress has been achieved.
- Good progress has been made with regards to advancing the school's developmental priorities.
- In conjunction with the subject teachers, management has been supportive in enabling the implementation of recommendations.
- Very good quality teaching and learning was evident and significant progress has been made, in particular with regards to the further development of active learning, and the use of ICT.
- Subject department plans as well as the guidance plan have been further developed as necessary.
- The school is working towards a submission to the Department of Education and Skills for final approval of the proposed extension and staff are mindful of health and safety risks in the interim period.

Recommendations

- To build on the good assessment practices observed, strategies to facilitate student self-assessment and peer-assessment should be further developed and implemented so that students can take a more central role in assessing and improving the quality of their work.

The board of management of the school 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

The Board of Management appreciates the very positive feedback from the MLL Follow-Through Inspection.

We are particularly pleased that very good progress has been acknowledged on previous recommendations.

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

Building on the very good assessment practice in place strategies have been implemented to further facilitate student self and peer assessment.