

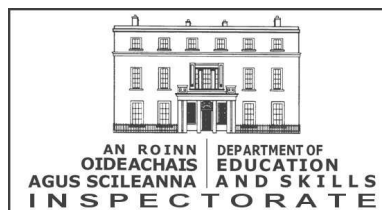
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

Department of Education and Skills

**Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT**

**Scoil Mhuire
Strokestown, County Roscommon
Uimhir rolla: 65100S**

Date of inspection: 22 January 2016



Date of original inspection¹	19-12-2012	Type of original report	WSE-MLL	Date of FT inspection	22-01-2016
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 subject co-ordinators of the three subject areas included in the FT inspection activities Observation of teaching and learning Interaction with students Review of school documentation and records and students' work</p>					
Recommendation in original inspection report		Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation			
The board of management in consultation with senior management and the teaching staff should ensure that action plans are devised and structures are developed for the implementation and review of identified school development priorities.		<p>Very good progress</p> <p>Action plans over the short, medium and long term have been devised in all school developmental priority areas. A planning steering group and a curriculum advisory group have been set up and meetings of each group are convened regularly.</p>			
There is a need for urgent attention to be paid to ensuring compliance with health and safety requirements.		<p>Partial progress</p> <p>A review of the health and safety statement was carried out in 2013 and included the new school building. This statement is in need of more regular review and each subject department should carry out an annual risk assessment of its teaching area for submission to the school's safety officer.</p>			
A review of the posts of responsibilities should be carried out and procedures for reporting to the school's management on progress made in relation to posts of responsibility should be agreed.		<p>Very good progress</p> <p>A review of the posts of responsibilities was carried out over a number of staff meetings. Although procedures for reporting to the school's management on progress made in relation to posts of responsibility have not been devised, the principal reported positively on progress made in this regard since the time of the WSE-MLL.</p>			
A whole-school information and communications technology (ICT) plan should be devised to support and promote the increased integration of ICT into teaching and learning.		<p>Partial progress</p> <p>Notwithstanding the good progress reported in relation to ICT, discussions with staff indicated a need for a whole-staff discussion in relation to staff training needs in this regard. An ICT plan has not been devised and current facilities for ICT were reported as being out of date. Therefore, the development of an ICT action plan is again recommended.</p>			
To support higher student achievement, there should be further sharing of pedagogical strategies within and between departments.		<p>Good progress</p> <p>Good progress has been made in relation to the sharing of pedagogical strategies within but not between departments. Whole-staff continuing professional development (CPD), focussing on teaching and learning techniques, has not been provided over the last three years. A needs analysis of staff in relation to pedagogical strategies is recommended to assist in progressing developments in teaching and learning.</p>			
Engagement with the school's self-evaluation process should extend to include all teachers and improvements in self-evaluation procedures should be introduced accordingly.		<p>Partial progress</p> <p>A school improvement plan (SIP) is in place for literacy and for numeracy and <i>assessment for learning</i> is the focus for school self-evaluation (SSE) for the current school year. However, the SIP for literacy and numeracy does not contain measureable targets for improvements. In the lessons</p>			

	<p>evaluated, except for some limited reference to keywords, evidence of agreed in-class whole-school improvement strategies for literacy and numeracy were not observed. It is recommended that a structure to support the implementation of SSE be looked at again in the context of the ongoing review of the school's schedule of posts.</p>
<p>Summary of findings</p>	
<p>Some good progress has been made in the case of the majority of the WSE-MLL recommendations. Despite teaching and learning, as well as literacy and numeracy, being at the top of the school's list of priorities, no comprehensive action plans exist in these identified areas. As in the original report, a needs analysis of staff CPD needs is recommended. The regular review of the school's health and safety statement is an area that remains in need of urgent attention.</p>	
<p>Recommendations</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching and learning strategies and ICT should be targeted in the analysis of staff CPD needs. • A structure to support the implementation of SSE should be considered in the context of the ongoing review of the school's schedule of posts. 	

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

Part A Observations on the content of the inspection report

Following a discussion at our recent Board Meeting, the Board feel that the following items need to be noted. With regard to our Health and Safety Statement, this matter is being addressed.

In relation to our Partial Progress on our ICT Plan, we wish to contextualize our position, for the last number of years due to the retirement of an Assistant Principal with responsibility for ICT Co Ordination and the moratorium of Posts we agree that Partial Progress has been made and that this is not to the satisfaction of the Board. It has proved very difficult to devise and implement an ICT Plan.

In relation to Facilities being out of date, the Board is aware that Laptops purchased using DES Grant for that Purpose are obsolete and badly in need of upgrading, this would be prioritized should funding become available.

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

Re Structure to support the implementation of SSE, the Board has agreed that in our ongoing Review of the Schools Schedule of Posts, we as a School will endeavour to implement a structure to support SSE, as we regard this as a need within the School, but the current position on Posts makes this a particularly difficult task.

Re ICT, the analysis of staff CPD needs with regard to Teaching and Learning Strategies will be prioritized for immediate action.