

**An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna**  
**Department of Education and Skills**

**Follow-Through Inspection**  
**REPORT**

**Ratoath College**  
**Ratoath, County Meath**  
**Roll Number: 76088T**

**Date of inspection: 9 October 2014**



<b>Date of publication of original report</b>	<b>November 2011</b>	<b>Type of original report</b>	WSE-MLL	<b>Date of FT inspection</b>	<b>9 October 2014</b>
<b>Follow-through inspection activities</b>					
<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</p>					
<b>Recommendation in original inspection report</b>		<b>Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation</b>			
<p>The school timetable should be amended to ensure that students receive twenty-eight hours instruction time per week in accordance with Circular Letter M29/95</p>		<p><b>Partial progress</b>  At the time of the original evaluation, the school timetable had a small shortfall of fifteen minutes. Since the evaluation, five minutes has been added to the weekly timetable. The school is reminded of its obligation to comply fully with Circular Letter M29/95.</p>			
<p>A Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) policy should be developed in line with Circular Letter 0037/2010</p>		<p><b>Very good progress</b>  This recommendation has been fully addressed. An RSE policy has been developed and has been ratified by the board of management.</p>			
<p>The school should develop a whole-school approach to literacy and numeracy</p>		<p><b>Good progress has been made in the area of literacy</b>  The school has taken several steps to address this recommendation in relation to literacy. School management, in consultation with staff, has developed a whole-school policy and approach to literacy. For instance, a literacy committee has been established which has met regularly and devised appropriate strategies that all subject departments are expected to use where possible. However, these strategies were only documented and integrated into schemes of work in a minority of the subject folders examined. In some lessons, very good practices were observed where the literacy needs of students were well catered for. Therefore, there is scope for the school to revisit the agreed whole-school policy with a view to ensuring that it is implemented by all subject departments.</p> <p><b>No progress in the area of numeracy.</b>  As part of its self-evaluation process, the school has identified numeracy as the next component of its school improvement plan.</p>			
<p>A whole-school approach to Assessment for Learning should be adopted</p>		<p><b>Good progress</b>  The school has taken several steps to address this recommendation. Senior management has provided training for staff in the use of assessment for learning strategies. This work was reflected in some subjects' assessment strategies which were documented in some planning folders. Management has introduced new strategies as part of the reporting mechanisms to parents so that developmental feedback is provided in termly reports. In the lessons visited, there was some high-quality assessment for learning strategies in evidence. Overall, there is further scope for the school to revisit this recommendation to ensure that all subject departments are implementing it fully.</p>			

<p>Strategies that differentiate learning should form an integral part of the lesson</p>	<p><b>Good progress</b>          Much work has been done by senior management to address this recommendation. Several inputs have been provided to staff. Some high-quality differentiated strategies were evident in some of the lessons visited. The school should revisit this recommendation with a view to ensuring that it is implemented systematically in all subject departments.</p>
<p><b>Summary of findings</b></p>	
<p>Overall, good and some very good progress has been made by the school in the implementation of recommendations made in the original WSE report. The level of engagement by the board, senior management and staff is to be commended.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	
<p>The school should now ensure that all subject departments fully address the recommendations regarding the implementation of strategies in the areas of literacy, assessment for learning and differentiation.</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.