

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT

Sancta Maria College
Ballyroan, Dublin 16
Uimhir rolla: 60341P

Date of inspection: 20 November 2015



Date of original inspection¹	12 February 2015	Type of original report	SIR/Maths	Date of FT inspection	20 November 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 principal Meeting with members of the in-school management team and subject teachers Meeting with relevant teachers/members of staff 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			
Teaching methodologies and questioning strategies that support and promote learning for understanding should be used in all lessons.		<p>Very good progress</p> <p>The range of methodologies and teaching observed was of a very high standard. Methodologies included student investigative approaches, group work and some teacher-led instruction. Student engagement in their learning was also very high. Very effective use was made of a range of questioning strategies that probed and extended students' learning. There were also some very good examples of students questioning their teachers in order to clarify their learning.</p>			
Members of the mathematics department who are not graduates should access the up skilling programmes available		<p>Very good progress</p> <p>The board of management has been very proactive in addressing this recommendation and wrote to each member of the mathematics department recommending that they access upskilling courses. In addition, management has taken the opportunity to employ teachers who are graduates in Mathematics.</p>			
The mathematics department should have a clear focus on subject development planning to promote good and consistent practice.		<p>Good progress</p> <p>Common teaching strategies have been identified in some mathematics areas. The mathematics department have agreed the most appropriate teaching strategies and the use of common language to teach various topics. Work on the development of a mathematics department plan is ongoing, with some very good progress noted in the the schemes of work. However, there is some further work to be done on the schemes of work, for example, in relation to the integration of the identified common teaching strategies.</p>			
The mathematics department should develop a plan to address the uptake and achievement of students, with associated action plans to achieve improvements.		<p>Good progress</p> <p>Although no formal action plan has been developed a number of strategies are in place to support student attainment in Mathematics. For example, management has introduced team teaching in some junior cycle classes and some teachers are providing additional lessons after school and facilitating a maths clinic during lunchtime.</p>			
Summary of findings					
<p>Commendably, the board of management has and continues to be proactive in its approach to addressing the main recommendations. This has resulted in good or very good progress being made in each of the main recommendations. A priority of the board of management has been the deployment of suitably qualified mathematics teachers to the subject. Management has also addressed the timetabling of Mathematics and now all year groups have daily contact with the subject. Team teaching has been introduced and although it is in its infancy it is recognised by staff as being beneficial. The various strategies that are in place to improve student attainment should now be documented into an action plan.</p>					

¹ Date on cover of original inspection report

Recommendations
An area that still requires attention is the identification of staff member(s) who will assume the position of convenor of the subject so that the overall development of Mathematics can be further progressed.

The board of management of the school was given an opportunity to comment on the findings and recommendations of the report; the board chose to accept the report without response.