

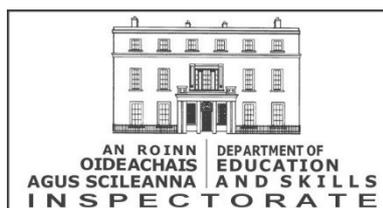
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

Department of Education and Skills

**Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT**

**St Joseph's National School
Culleens, Co. Sligo
Uimhir rolla: 121401**

Date of inspection: 17 June 2016



Date of original inspection¹	28 January 2014	Type of original report	WSE-MLL	Date of FT inspection	17 June 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 principal Meeting with relevant teachers/members of staff Observation of teaching and learning Interaction with pupils Review of school documentation and records and pupils' work Review of resources and facilities</p>					
Recommendation in original inspection report		Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation			
The board of management should appoint a new treasurer and provide for the annual certification of school accounts. A financial statement should be presented at every meeting and an annual report should be published.		<p>Very good progress</p> <p>The current board of management was established in December 2015. The board actively supports the development of the school. The new treasurer is cognisant of her duties and school accounts are certified annually. School funds are carefully managed. A financial statement is presented at each meeting of the board of management.</p>			
A whole-school approach to teacher planning and monthly record-keeping focusing on pupil learning outcomes should be adopted by staff.		<p>Partial progress</p> <p>A range and variety of planning is effected by teachers. The current provision allows for some reference to the curriculum strands and strand units and occasional reference to curriculum objectives, differentiation, assessment and specific methodologies.</p> <p>Monthly pupil progress is maintained in a variety of formats. This good work should be reviewed in order to provide for continuity and progression in the development of pupils' skills and attainment.</p>			
The quality of pupils' handwriting and presentation of written work should be enhanced through implementation of a whole-school approach and policy.		<p>Very good progress</p> <p>A whole-school approach and policy to handwriting has been agreed and adopted and there is good consistency in approaches to handwriting across the school. This progress is acknowledged. The range and quality of pupils' handwriting and presentation of work should continue to be maintained to a high standard overall with the use of cooperative, collaborative and process writing approaches.</p>			
Moltar deiseanna sa bhreis a thabhairt do na daltaí chun a gcumas labhartha sa Ghaeilge a threisiú. <i>It is recommended that further opportunities be provided to pupils to strengthen their spoken competence in Irish.</i>		<p>Good progress</p> <p>The quality of teaching and learning in Irish is good overall. The standard of spoken Irish achieved by the pupils in the senior classroom is good. This is evidenced also from standardised tests in Irish that are now utilised every second year to measure pupil achievement. A variety of opportunities are provided for pupils to speak through Irish but further use of poetry, drama and role-play should be practised to strengthen their spoken competence.</p>			
Summary of findings					
<p>Of the four recommendations in the original WSE-MLL report, there has been very good progress in two, good progress in one and partial progress in one.</p> <p>The new board is aware of its role and responsibilities under the Education Act and implements them accordingly. Although very good progress has been made with regard to the school's approach to pupils' handwriting skills, there is still a need for the range and quality of pupils' handwriting and presentation of work to be maintained to a high standard overall. The staff plans and prepares for the work and maintains records of pupil progress. However, this is neither practised nor retained on a whole-school basis and it could be fulfilled more effectively. Although good progress in developing Irish in the school has been made, opportunities remain for further consolidation and improvement.</p>					

¹ Date on cover of original inspection report

Recommendations

- A whole-school approach to short-term planning should be introduced with specific focus on the curriculum.
- Short-term planning should delineate curriculum objectives, differentiation, assessment, methodologies and resources. SSE targets should also be outlined.
- Progress and records of achievement of pupil learning outcomes in the curriculum strands and strand units should be retained in monthly records in a whole-school approach.
- Further work should be undertaken in the building of strong repertoires of poetry and song in the school and there should be greater focus on discrete language opportunities in all curricular areas to strengthen pupil language acquisition.
- In order to enhance the range and quality of pupils' handwriting, the presentation of work should continue to be maintained to a high standard overall, and a process writing approach should be taken to a broad range of genres.

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

The Board of Management of St Joseph's National School, Culleens, Co Sligo accepts the report as the final inspection report available for publication and will continue to move forward while maintaining the high standards achieved at the school.

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

- A whole school approach to planning has been introduced. Identical short-term planning templated will be utilised across the staff henceforth as recommended.
- To complement the pupils' vast repertoire of instrumental music and performance – both public and in-school, we will revise and extend their singing repertoire. Recent focus has been on instrumental mastery, composition, music theory and grade preparation and both public/in-school performance. Cello lessons, which have been ongoing for two years, have now been replaced by piano and keyboard lessons.
- Junior room pupils will be closely monitored to ensure improved proficiency in Irish. All pupils will enjoy extension of oral language opportunities sa Ghaeilge.
- The high standard of handwriting and presentation will be maintained by careful instruction and ongoing monitoring.
- All planning will be mindful and reflective of curriculum objectives, methodologies and resources.