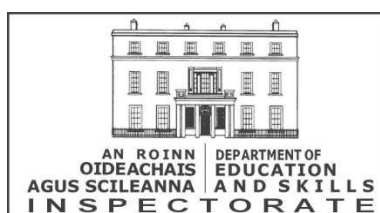


An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT

St. Declan's Special NS
Northumberland Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Uimhir rolla: 18569J

Date of inspection: 9 October 2014



Date of publication/issue of original report	April 2012	Type of original report	WSE	Date of FT inspection	9 October 2014
Follow-through inspection activities					
<p><i>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Meeting with principal ▪ Meeting with members of the in-school management ▪ Observation of teaching and learning ▪ Review of school documentation and records and pupils' work 					
Recommendation in original inspection report			Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation		
<p>Building on planning undertaken to date, agreed processes, targets and timeframes, should be set out for the development and implementation of prioritised areas of the school plan.</p>			<p>Very good progress The principal, deputy principal, in-school management team and school staff have been proactive in the review of school policies in key areas of the work of the school. Substantial work has been undertaken in relation to areas of the curriculum and teaching methodologies. The teachers have engaged productively with the school self-evaluation process and impressive whole-school initiatives are in evidence in literacy and numeracy.</p>		
<p>In reviewing school assessment policy, a whole-school framework should be developed to further support the monitoring of the pupils' programmes while attending the school.</p>			<p>Very good progress A carefully prepared assessment policy is implemented systematically across the school. Assessment practices address pupils' progress in the curriculum areas and in relation to their broader learning needs. A good range of resources is employed to support classroom practice and suitable records are maintained.</p>		
<p>In the light of original school policy and taking pupil progress into account, and to support the inclusion of pupils in mainstream settings, school practices on the length of time pupils attend St. Declan's should be reviewed.</p>			<p>Very good progress A comprehensive review of enrolment, involving all stakeholders, has been undertaken. Revised policies and procedures have been put in place. The enrolment policy addresses the length of time pupils attend the school, taking account of the aim of pupils returning to mainstream settings after a period of two years.</p>		
Summary of findings					
<p>St. Declan's Special NS has made very good progress in following-up on the recommendations made in the WSE report. Substantial work has been undertaken in the areas of school planning, assessment policy and practice, and in relation to the review of enrolment policy.</p>					
Recommendations					
<p>The school is commended for the work undertaken and the progress made to date in the implementation of the WSE recommendations.</p>					

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

On behalf of the school community of St. Declan's Special School, the Board welcomes this follow through report and is very pleased that the report commends the school for the substantial work undertaken since the whole school evaluation.

The Board is particularly pleased to note the report acknowledges that impressive whole-school initiatives are in evidence in literacy & numeracy.

Finally, the Board sincerely thanks all of the partners involved in making St. Declan's such a supportive and caring environment. The ongoing dedication and commitment of our staff along with the positive and whole-hearted engagement of parents in supporting the work of the school continues to be a cornerstone of our success.

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

The Board is pleased that the inspectorate sees no need to make any further recommendations and that the school is 'commended for the work undertaken and the progress made to date.'

The Board will continue to engage with the process of school self-evaluation and school improvement planning and to work with the entire school community in its continual pursuit of excellence across all areas of the work of the school.