

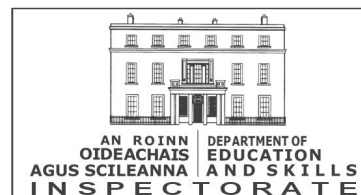
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

Department of Education and Skills

**Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT**

**O'Connell School
North Richmond Street, Dublin 1
Roll number: 60440R**

Date of inspection: 16 October 2015



Date of original inspection¹	7 February 2013	Type of original report	WSE-MLL	Date of FT inspection	8 & 16 October 2015
Report published	Yes				
Follow-through inspection activities					
<p>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with senior management team • Meeting with members of the in-school management team • Meeting with relevant teachers • Observation of teaching and learning • Interaction with students • Review of school documentation • Review of resources and facilities 					
Recommendation in original inspection report		Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation			
<p>The board of management should ensure that the DEIS planning process is robust; there should be systematic policy development and review processes; communications with all stakeholders should be improved, and appropriate consultation should take place.</p>		<p>Very good progress A systematic and cohesive approach to DEIS planning is now evident. A DEIS co-ordinator has been appointed and core teams are establishing and monitoring targets under each DEIS pillar. The DEIS plan is informed by effective data analysis techniques and consultation with parents and students. This approach to planning has proved very useful in progressing a number of school improvement priorities. DEIS targets are being embedded in subject plans. Subject departments should now give consideration to strategies to support the attainment pillar.</p>			
<p>Senior management should establish working groups to execute the board's priorities; evaluation of progress should be recorded and reviewed by the board; instructional leadership should address the school's capacity to deal with the needs of a changing and diverse student cohort; an ongoing programme of continuing professional development (CPD) should be provided for staff in a range of areas.</p>		<p>Very good progress The board of management and senior management are taking an active role in monitoring and assisting in the implementation of the DEIS plan. Senior management is making deliberate efforts to lead a school that is a high-quality learning environment. An appropriate range of CPD is supporting this work. It was evident from the lessons observed that engagement with CPD is impacting positively on students' learning experiences.</p>			
<p>All aspects of curriculum provision should be reviewed to ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of all students; timetabling, teaching and other resources should be equitably distributed.</p>		<p>Very good progress A complete review of curriculum provision has been undertaken with many positive outcomes noted. Specialist resources have been upgraded. A wider range of programmes and subjects is available, with more effective use of staff resources evident. A range of supports is provided for students with additional learning needs. The board should review the amount of administration time it has allocated for the co-ordination of special educational needs so as to maximise the time allocated to teaching and learning. The impact of the current timetabling arrangements for the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) needs close monitoring.</p>			
<p>All procedures in relation to supervision of students should be rigorously followed; the code of behaviour should be consistently implemented by all staff; the role of form teachers and year heads should be reviewed.</p>		<p>Very good progress Positive behaviour is actively encouraged and recognised through the operation of a revised code of behaviour and the <i>Back on Track</i> initiative. A calm, supportive and caring learning environment was evident in all of the lessons observed. A well-organised student-support structure is in operation. The introduction of a short tutor period at the beginning of the</p>			

¹ Date on cover of original inspection report

	school day serves as an effective pastoral support for students. Year head and tutor roles have been reviewed. The fortnightly year head meeting supports consistent implementation of the code of behaviour.
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Summary of findings

The board of management, senior management and staff have demonstrated a very high level of engagement with the key recommendations made in the WSE-MLL report.

The revised approach to evidence-based school planning has resulted in many positive changes in school organisation with a clear focus on improving students' learning experiences.

The quality of the work undertaken in progressing the recommendations of the WSE-MLL report demonstrates that school management and staff have a very good capacity for, and commitment to, school improvement and school self-evaluation.

Recommendations

All subject departments should use the data gathered from their evaluation of trends in student attainment in the in-house and certificate examinations, together with findings from the relevant chief examiners' reports, to inform subject-specific teaching and learning strategies to enhance attainment across all subject areas.

Strategies should be implemented to enable all junior-cycle students to reflect on and monitor their own progress in the achievement of the Junior Certificate School Programme Learning Statements selected in each subject area.

As the LCA programme becomes established, senior management, in association with the programme co-ordinator, should conduct an analysis of the elements of LCA that can best be delivered to a combined group of students in fifth year and sixth year and those components that are better timetabled separately.

The board of management 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

The school's Board of Management and staff would like to acknowledge the report. The positive comments and very good progress outlined in the report are a testament to the hard work that all the members of the school community have engaged in over the past three years.

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

In moving forward and planning for the future, the school's Board of Management will take full cognisance of the three recommendations outlined in the report.