

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT

St. Mary's CBS
Enniscorthy, County Wexford
Roll number: 63560T

Date of inspection: 28 May 2014



Date of publication of original report	11 October 2013	Type of original report	WSE-MLL	Date of FT inspection	28 May 2014
Follow-through inspection activities					
<p><i>The following activities took place during the follow-through inspection:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with senior management team • Meeting with relevant teachers • Review of school documentation and records 					
Recommendation in original inspection report		Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation			
Management should consider a variety of measures with a view to addressing some shortfall in time allocations for specific subject areas.		<p>Very good progress The timetabling issues raised during the evaluation have been addressed fully and this is commended.</p>			
It is recommended that all teachers regularly use a range of active methodologies to provide opportunities for students to collaborate with each other to consolidate and reinforce learning.		<p>Very good progress It was reported that very good progress is being achieved in relation to the use of active methodologies through the school self-evaluation (SSE) process. Students and teachers were surveyed as part of the process and that survey included questions on attitudes to active methodologies and active learning. Team teaching has taken place in the school for the first time. Workshops have been established to give teachers opportunities to share and discuss methodologies and best practice. The teacher survey revealed that a significant minority of teachers are not comfortable using information and communication technology (ICT). A workshop has been established to build capacity among teachers in relation to the use of ICT. The teaching staff and management are highly commended for their open and flexible attitudes to change and improvement. Many new initiatives are being trialled with a focus on literacy and teaching and learning. The whole school engagement with the SSE process reflects many aspects of excellent practice and is highly commended.</p>			
It is recommended that the practice of providing formative written comments to students to give guidance on how to improve their work be established across the school, as well as increasing the involvement of students in monitoring and assessing their own progress.		<p>Partial Progress Partial progress has been made in relation to this recommendation, in that it has been discussed and planned for. Management and staff had prioritised the first two recommendations for implementation during the last year since the WSE-MLL. This third recommendation will be undertaken fully during the next school year. Assessment for learning (AfL) strategies are on the school's agenda for the next term. It is planned that one department will be asked to be the leaders in this area of change and improvement in the school, possibly the English department.</p>			
Summary of findings					
<p>The school community has engaged fully with the recommendations of the WSE-MLL report (May 2013). The SSE process has been used very effectively to enthuse and engage staff members in improvement. There is a commendable energy and enthusiasm about the process and its consequent impact on student engagement, learning and attainment. Management and staff members interviewed during the follow-through visit were open and frank about how the SSE process is changing the nature of professional dialogue in the school for the better. Areas for further development have been identified including the issue of student attendance among a small cohort of students. The commitment and engagement with change and improvement among teachers and management in a variety of areas across the school reflects many aspects of excellent practice and is highly commended.</p>					
Recommendations					
It is recommended that the school progress the third recommendation as planned during the next academic year.					

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 board of management is very pleased that the inspectorate has recognised the attention given to the recommendations in the WSE-MLL. The board is very grateful to the teaching staff for their positive response to the recommendations including the requirement for a change in the timetable.

The board is very pleased with the engagement of the teaching staff with the recommendation on developing a wide range of active teaching methodologies.

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 aware of the work that is being done by teachers in the area of developing active teaching methodologies and wishes to commend that work.

The board has set as one of its priorities for this year the adoption of Assessment for Learning strategies and looks forward to hearing about progress in this area.