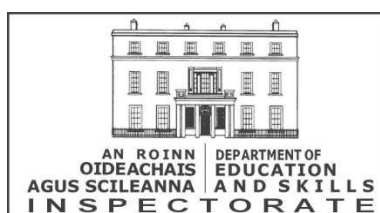


An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT

Tralee Community College
Tralee, County Kerry
Uimhir rolla: 70550H

Date of inspection: 15 May 2014



Date of publication/issue of original report	1 March 2013 12 December 2012	Type of original report	WSE-MLL	Date of FT inspection	15 May 2014
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 and/or senior management team Meeting with members of the in-school management team or subject coordinator Meeting with relevant teachers/members of staff Review of school documentation and records and pupils'/students' work Communication with chairperson of board of management</p>					
Recommendation in original inspection report			Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation		
<p>The board should take steps to ensure compliance in the key areas identified in the evaluation (whole-school guidance plan; attendance strategy; substance use policy)</p>			<p>There has been partial, limited progress in relation to the implementation of this recommendation regarding compliance. None of the three documents in question are yet in place. However, some work has been done on the preparation of a whole-school guidance plan; this remains to be progressed in the context of a collaborative approach in the post-primary school.</p>		
<p>The board should see that an audit of existing policies is undertaken and that a plan is put in place to support the development and ongoing review of policies</p>			<p>Progress has been limited in relation to this recommendation. The principal and deputy principal reported that the policy portfolio had been reviewed. A teacher was then asked to look at the policy documents and report on those in place. It is essential, that as stated by senior management, a clear plan be put in place to support policy development, ratification and review. Priority should be given to required policies as listed above.</p>		
<p>Senior management should ensure that a process of collaborative decision-making underpins all key decisions in the school.</p>			<p>The recent fundamental decision to re-organise the operation of the school into two sections was taken collaboratively. The new operational structure facilitates greater professional collaboration which augurs well for the development of the new structure. The decision to re-introduce the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) was taken collaboratively with the involvement of the teaching staff in the post-primary section of the school. Good progress has been made in relation to this recommendation.</p> <p>It is clear, at this point, that ongoing collaboration and communication at senior management level, and the identification of mechanisms to support this, will be key to the successful functioning of the new operational structure.</p>		
<p>Initiatives in teaching and learning should be carefully planned and limited in number in order to bring greater focus and to allow for evaluation of impact.</p>			<p>Some progress has been made in the implementation of this recommendation. There has been a reduction in the high number of initiatives relating to teaching and learning. Initiatives in teaching and learning are now more focused on the Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) and on a whole-school approach to literacy. The planned formation of a sub-group of teachers to look at teaching strategies will support this. It will be important also to clarify and make the initiatives explicit so as to facilitate successful implementation, monitoring and evaluation.</p>		

The decision to discontinue the LCVP should be reviewed.	The decision to discontinue the LCVP was reviewed. The programme will be re-introduced on a phased basis from September 2014. Very good progress has been made in implementing this recommendation.
Priority should be given to progressing plans to provide separate toilet facilities for the two sections of the school.	Limited progress has been made in relation to implementing this recommendation. The plans to provide separate toilet facilities were shelved because of the decisions to re-structure the school. It is now planned to have separate facilities in place for September 2014.
Summary of findings	
<p>The level of progress made in relation to the implementation of key recommendations has varied. The report and the key findings and recommendations were provided to the board of management by the principal, as secretary to the board, and were brought to one of its meetings. However, there is no clear evidence of ongoing board oversight of follow-up actions at school level.</p> <p>Whilst the changes in the structure of the school have altered the operational context, these do not obviate or remove the need for the implementation of clear follow-up actions as recommended in the report of the whole-school evaluation – management, leadership and learning report issued in December 2012.</p>	
Recommendations	
At this juncture, the new structure, now formally known as Coláiste Gleann Lí, provides an obvious opportunity to ensure thorough and effective follow-up on recommendations for improvement.	

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

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 Collaborative Management Team in Coláiste Gleann Lí has worked tirelessly to ensure compliance with the recommendations of the Inspectorate and have completed the policies which were deficient in Tralee Community College.

The Collaborative Management Team in Coláiste Gleann Lí, in conjunction with the Board of Managements has agreed a system of audit and reviews of Coláiste Gleann Lí policies and procedures to ensure effective management of the school.

In line with the recommendations and following whole school consultation, the number of teaching and learning initiatives has been rationalised and limited in order to maximise their effectiveness. These initiatives will be delivered in a whole school approach.

Tremendous improvement has been achieved in the school under the Coláiste Gleann Lí Collaborative Management Team and the Board of Management fully supports and commends the great work undertaken by staff towards the provision of a quality post-primary education in Tralee.