

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

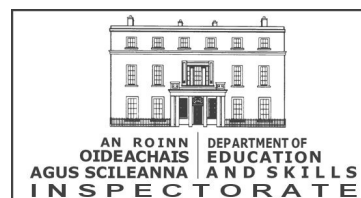
Department of Education and Skills

**Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT**

**Larkin Community College
Champions Avenue, Dublin 1**

Roll number: 760770

Date of inspection: 4 February 2016



Date of original inspection¹	13/11/2014	Type of original report	WSE-MLL	Date of FT inspection	29/1/2016 & 4/2/2016
Report published	Yes				
Follow-through inspection activities					
<i>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</i>					
Meeting with principal and deputy principal Observation of teaching and learning Interaction with students Review of school documentation and records Review of resources and facilities					
Recommendation in original inspection report		Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation			
In the context of the school planning and review processes, the board and senior management should now develop a time-bound strategic plan for the school.		No progress A new board of management, established in June 2015, has received training from the City of Dublin Education and Training Board (CDET) and has been actively engaged in dealing with ongoing issues including consideration of DEIS planning, and school self-evaluation. The development of a strategic plan for the school remains on the agenda of the board for future consideration.			
Senior management should ensure that decision-making processes are more whole school in nature.		Good progress Several systems facilitate good communication between management and staff. At board level, agreed reports are disseminated. A staff handbook provides up-to-date information on organisational and policy matters. A staff newsletter provides regular updates on ongoing developments. A new electronic school administration system allows speedy dissemination of information. Regular updates of the school calendar ensure that staff are aware of upcoming events. The senior management team meets regularly and has agreed to share the minutes of their meetings with all staff. The comprehensive survey of teachers' views on issues such as timetabling and curriculum, conducted in December 2015, was a very effective method of involving all staff in whole-school decision making. The school has continued to promote the establishment of a parents' council.			
The school should review current timetabling arrangements in light of experience and best practice and with a view to addressing shortfalls in instruction time.		Good progress Assemblies, at the start of and during the school day, were discontinued during the 2014/15 school year. However, on review, and with the approval of the board, the assemblies were re-instated in October 2015. It was felt that the advantages of having such assemblies outweighed the disadvantages. However, the impact of assemblies on tuition time, and the best use of one-hour lessons, should continue to be reviewed.			
The school should devise strategies for the sharing of good practices in order to enhance the quality of teaching and learning		Good progress During the current school year, the school has established a committee to oversee developments aimed at enhancing the quality of teaching and learning. Some committee members have participated in off-site training with a view to sharing the learning from that experience with all staff in due course. The number of teachers involved in providing learning support has been			

¹ Date on cover of original inspection report

	<p>reduced and specialist training has been accessed by members of the core SEN team. Subject departments have been encouraged to share good practice and to review student attainment in the state examinations. Other examples of the sharing of good practice are team teaching and the mentoring of newly qualified teachers.</p> <p>The school is supportive of teachers' professional development. Training has been provided for the introduction of the new Junior Cycle Framework, and teachers have been facilitated to attend a number of other relevant events.</p> <p>The quality of teaching and learning observed during the inspection was very good in most of the lessons observed. Active learning was facilitated and good use was made of information and communication technology to engage students.</p>
Summary of findings	
The school has made good progress with most of the recommendations.	
Recommendations	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board should commence the development of a strategic plan for the school. • The impact of assemblies on tuition time, and the best use of one-hour lessons should continue to be reviewed. 	

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

Part A: Observations on the content of the inspection report

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

The Board shall begin work on the Strategic plan which will involve a more concentrated focus on SSE and DEIS and the New Junior Cycle.

As a result, the Board plans to hold a further two meetings before the end of the 2015/16 academic year.

The Board agreed to support the Principal and Deputy Principal in continuing with one hour lessons with regular review and ongoing Staff CPD, support and collaboration around getting the best out of one hour.

Assemblies: The Board agreed that the review of how this operates will be ongoing.