

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT

Meánscoil Iognáid Rís
Naas, County Kildare

Roll Number: 61710C

Date of inspection: 10 May 2016



AN ROINN | DEPARTMENT OF
OIDEACHAIS | EDUCATION
AGUS SCILEANNA | AND SKILLS

THE INSPECTION

Date of original inspection¹	7 March 2013	Type of original inspection	<i>Subject Inspection</i>	Date of follow-through inspection	10 May 2016
Report published	April 2014				
Activities that were part of the follow-through inspection					
<p>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting with the principal • A meeting with the Irish department coordinator • Observation of teaching and learning • Review of school documents and records • Review of examples of students' work • A feedback meeting with the school's senior management, with the department coordinator and with the subject teachers 					
Recommendation in original inspection report		Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation			
<p>The sharing of experience among members of the department is recommended as is the further development of effective strategies to support differentiated learning.</p>		<p>Partial progress</p> <p>Through tasks which required cooperation in learning and a small number of examples of differentiation in the teacher's questioning, the needs of individual students were catered for to a point. There is still scope to add to the differentiation strategies which are used, for example, through questioning, class tasks and homework.</p>			
<p>It is recommended that arrangements be put in place to develop an assessment policy which will include the homework policy as an integral part.</p>		<p>Very good progress</p> <p>An assessment policy of good quality has been developed which includes homework. Significant progress has been made in the assessment of spoken Irish and the students now participate in the optional oral exam for the Junior Certificate.</p>			
<p>A review of the Transition Year plan is recommended. Practices should be developed to support monitoring and review of the department plan in general.</p>		<p>Partial progress</p> <p>There was evidence that the Transition Year programme is being better linked to the special interests of the students through, for example, a trip to Croke Park as part of their learning experience. However, this should be reflected in the plan itself. Again, it is recommended to review the Transition Year plan.</p> <p>Some references to learning outcomes were evident in a small sample of the plans for individual year groups. This aspect is still an important area for development.</p> <p>The department's review and monitoring practices have been developed. The department reports to management on development priorities. The department plan showed scope to embed these practices as part of the self-evaluation process.</p>			

<p>Literacy and numeracy skills should be integrated into the plans for the various year groups.</p>	<p>Partial progress</p> <p>There is a statement in the plan based on the whole school policies for literacy and numeracy. As well as that, some references are made to numeracy in a range of topics which naturally incorporate it. In the review of plans, it is recommended that the integration of these skills with content be made clearer.</p>
<p>Summary of findings</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation of classes showed that partial progress has been made regarding the differentiation of learning. • Very good progress has been made on the development and implementation of the assessment policy. • Partial progress has been made on the review of the Transition Year programme and in developing the learning outcomes for individual year groups. • Some development has been made regarding the department's monitoring and reviewing practices. • Partial progress has been made regarding the integration of numeracy and literacy skills with subject content. 	
<p>Recommendations</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended to add to the differentiation strategies which are used through teacher questioning, class tasks and homework. • It is recommended that the monitoring and reviewing practices be embedded as part of the department's self-evaluation process. • It is recommended that the development of the learning outcomes for individual year groups and the development of the Transition Year plan based on the principles of the programme and on the special interests of the students be continued. • It is recommended that the integration of literacy and numeracy skills be clearer in the planning documents. 	

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

The board of management welcomes the report and has commended the teachers of Irish on the positive observations within the report. It welcomes especially the commendations in relation to the following:

- 1) Very good progress was made on the development and implementation of the assessment policy.
- 2) Significant progress was made in the assessment of spoken Irish and the students now participate in the optional oral examination for the Junior Certificate.

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 of management has requested that the teachers of Irish consider the recommendations with a view to putting more emphasis on

- differentiation strategies
- the self-evaluation process of the department
- continuing the development of learning outcomes for individual year groups
- continuing the development of the Transition Year programme
- the integration of literacy and numeracy.