

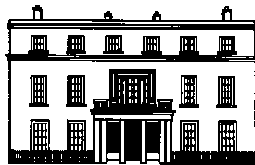
An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

Department of Education and Skills

**Subject Inspection of Metalwork and Engineering
REPORT**

**Coláiste Chathail Naofa,
Youghal Road, Dungarvan,
Co Waterford.
Roll number: 72220T**

Date of inspection: 6 May 2014



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

**REPORT
ON
THE QUALITY OF LEARNING AND TEACHING IN METALWORK AND
ENGINEERING**

INFORMATION ON THE INSPECTION

Date of inspection	6 May 2014
Inspection activities undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of relevant documents• Discussion with principal and teacher• Interaction with students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of teaching and learning during four class periods• Examination of students' work• Feedback to principal and teacher

MAIN FINDINGS

- Teaching and learning varied from fair to good in the lessons observed with scope for improvement identified in the areas of student participation, use of visual displays and the integration of assessment for learning (AfL) techniques into lessons.
- Teacher demonstrations were well-planned and very informative however they were often long with few opportunities created for student interaction.
- School management supports the organisation and development of the subjects through an appropriate allocation of class periods and the introduction of a subject sampling programme in first year.
- Subject planning is developing with scope for improvement identified in the procedures on setting and correcting homework tasks and formative assessment practices.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- The duration and content of teacher demonstrations should be carefully planned and reviewed to ensure shorter and more focused inputs by the teacher and that opportunities are provided for students to actively participate and contribute fully in lessons.
 - Animations, visuals and audio-visuals should be incorporated into lessons, for example, through the effective use of information and communication technology (ICT) where possible to maximise students' engagement and understanding of topics.
 - Subject specific terminology should be explicitly taught to support students to access the syllabus fully, develop their vocabulary and gain greater understanding of concepts.
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INTRODUCTION

Coláiste Chathail Naofa is a co-educational vocational school under the auspices of Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (ETB). The school has a current enrolment of 150 second-level students. The school offers a wide range of programmes including the Junior Certificate, the Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP), the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme and also provides a number of post-leaving certificate courses. The school participates in the Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) programme.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Teaching and learning varied from fair to good in the lesson observed with scope for improvement identified in the areas of student participation, use of visual displays and the integration of assessment for learning (AfL) techniques into lessons.
- The content of lessons was appropriate for the students' age and ability levels. In some instances, the pace of lessons required attention particularly during teacher demonstrations. To address this issue, careful planning of lessons is required to ensure teacher inputs are short, focused and engaging of students.
- Two lessons observed were non-practical in nature and covered metalwork and engineering theory. The structure of these lessons was good with some scope for improvement in relation to the assessment of lesson objectives. To ensure that student learning is assessed, all lessons should be planned to include appropriate time for the introduction, development, modelling and assessment of key points.
- In all lessons observed, there was some degree of student passivity. To counteract this, greater use of animations and audio-visuais, for example, through the effective use of ICT would help to motivate students to take a more active role in their learning and provide them with a stimulating and interesting context for the subject matter.
- Students were actively engaged when practising their skills and completing project work. Students demonstrated a very good work ethic and the artefacts produced were of a suitably high quality. LCA students' work facilitated a multi-disciplined approach to the subject including aspects of electronics, machining, shaping and finishing.
- Limited attention was paid to the explanation of subject specific terminology. Greater emphasis should be placed on this aspect of the subject as it will help students to access the syllabus content, develop their vocabulary and gain greater understanding of key concepts in the subject area.
- Questioning was the key mode of assessment employed in the lessons observed. Questions, when incorporated, were distributed appropriately and students' responses were well thought out and complete in most instances.
- Classroom management was very good and students responded positively to the class rules and the teacher's instructions. The atmosphere in the classroom was positive at all times and this contributed to the good quality of the overall learning environment.
- Students' skill development was good. Techniques employed were appropriate and machine use was safe, considered and accurate.
- Similar numbers of students choose ordinary level and higher level at junior cycle. In recent years, the trend has favoured higher level uptake. This is a very positive

development. At senior cycle, the majority of students choose ordinary level. At both junior and senior cycle, students achieve a good range of grades with almost all students achieving a minimum of a pass grade.

SUBJECT PROVISION AND WHOLE SCHOOL SUPPORT

- Metalwork and Engineering are offered to students in all of the school's curricular programmes. The allocation of class periods to the subjects is good with four periods allocated at junior cycle and five periods allocated at senior cycle.
- The metalwork and engineering room is appropriately resourced and has a good ICT infrastructure.
- A safety statement has been developed and a health and safety audit has identified hazards and strategies to reduce risks which is good practice. To further encourage students' awareness of safety hazards, exclusion zones should be clearly demarcated around large machines where practicable.
- All students may choose to study Metalwork and Engineering. A recently introduced, month-long sampling system in first year facilitates students who may not have chosen Metalwork to experience the subject and make more informed optional subject choices. This is a welcome development.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

- The subject department has developed a useful subject plan for the subjects. The plan identifies content to be delivered with general timeframes outlined.
- Yearly schemes provide additional detail on the subject department's procedures regarding homework and AfL. These two areas, in particular, should be developed further with greater emphasis being placed on the procedures for setting and correcting homework tasks and formative assessment practices.
- The subject plan contains a good level of information pertaining to students studying the subjects who require additional educational support. Ongoing liaison between the subject department and the special education team will help to strengthen these supports.
- Planning and preparation for lessons observed was good with some scope for improvement identified in relation to the planning and structuring of theory components of lessons.

The draft findings and recommendations arising out of this evaluation were discussed with the principal and the subject teacher at the conclusion of the evaluation. The board of management was given an opportunity to comment in writing on the findings and recommendations of the report; a response was not received from the board.