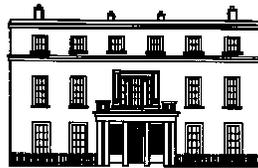


An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Subject Inspection of ART
REPORT

Lucan Community College
Esker Drive, Lucan, County Dublin
Roll number: 70080T

Date of inspection: 9 February 2016



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

**REPORT
ON
THE QUALITY OF LEARNING AND TEACHING IN ART**

INFORMATION ON THE INSPECTION

Dates of inspection	8 and 9 February 2016
Inspection activities undertaken <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of relevant documents• Discussion with principal and teachers• Interaction with students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Observation of teaching and learning during six class periods• Examination of students' work• Feedback to principal, deputy principal and teachers

MAIN FINDINGS

- The overall quality of teaching and learning in the lessons observed was good.
- Lessons were well-structured and well-paced but there was scope to develop more challenging content for some students.
- A rich body of student work was on display in both art rooms and throughout the school, including very good examples of studies from primary sources.
- Teachers were mobile throughout all lessons and actively engaged with students to provide individual attention and appropriate support.
- Overall the whole-school provision for Art is very good.
- Planning documents are in place which indicate long term aims and objectives that fulfil all aspects of the relevant syllabus and programme requirements.

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

- All lessons should include an element of new content that builds on prior learning and raises expectations for all learners.
 - The practice of working from primary sources should be further developed as an integral part of project work.
 - Support Studies should be inherent in the learning of Art in junior cycle and subject planning documentation should be developed to reflect this.
 - Art department plans should be reviewed collaboratively and developed to include a clearer focus on literacy, numeracy, differentiation and assessment.
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INTRODUCTION

Lucan Community College is a coeducational post-primary school under the management of the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board. It has a current enrolment of 485 boys and 393 girls. The school offers the Junior Certificate programme in junior cycle. The Transition Year (TY) programme is compulsory for all students who do not take part in the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme. Students may avail of the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme in senior cycle and LCA is offered every second year.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

- The overall quality of teaching and learning was good in the lessons observed, and while there were some very good practices noted, there is scope to raise the level of challenge presented to students in some lessons.
- Well-structured and well-paced learning experiences were a consistent feature of all lessons observed. This positive feature could be further enhanced by ensuring that new material is introduced in each lesson that builds on prior learning for students.
- The learning for students benefitted from good preparation of relevant materials in all lessons observed. The learning environment which is vibrant, print rich and appropriately laid out also serves to enhance students' experience in the art room.
- Very good examples of studies from primary sources were on display in the art rooms. The commendable practice of working from primary sources should be built on by making it an integral part of the development of all project work.
- Learning intentions were typically shared with students at the outset of lessons which is very good practice. Teachers should ensure that these learning intentions are sufficiently challenging for all of the students in the class.
- All teachers demonstrated skill, knowledge and competence in the delivery of their lessons, and should continue to engage in continuing professional development to build on their skills.
- The delivery of Art History is a strong feature of the Leaving Certificate programme. Students' understanding of Art History is greatly enhanced by learning about movements or styles concurrently with practical work. This is very good practice.
- The highly effective methodology observed in a Leaving Certificate lesson saw students creating their own work based on the methods of the artist that they were learning about in Art History. Similar approaches should be developed for junior cycle lessons to embed Support Studies into the learning of Art.
- To further improve the effective group-work seen in one lesson, specific roles should be assigned to each of the students in the group to encourage more active and balanced engagement with the task.
- All teachers were mobile throughout lessons and actively engaged with students. Individual attention was focused where it was needed and all students received appropriate support.

- The art department is well-equipped for the delivery of a variety of Art and Craft disciplines, including high quality information and communications technology equipment which was used appropriately in all lessons observed.
- The kiln facilities currently pose a health and safety risk which restricts its use and while there are plans to build new art rooms, interim measures should be explored to address this.
- Good progress was evident in the students' copybooks which are well maintained and regularly monitored. High quality formative feedback was noted on students' written work and was given orally in practical lessons. Written formative feedback should be extended to practical work so that students can more clearly monitor their progress in this area.

SUBJECT PROVISION AND WHOLE SCHOOL SUPPORT

- Very good provision is made for Art in the school with most class groups allocated double periods on the timetable. This is commendable practice.
- The majority of curricular programmes has appropriate contact time with the subject, however the time allocated for LCA Art should be reviewed. This has been noted by management who have undertaken to address this issue in the coming year.
- School management facilitates very good access for all students to the subject. Option bands are formed in first and fifth year based on student choice, which is good practice.
- Uptake of Art in junior cycle is very good. In TY and Leaving Certificate the numbers are significantly lower and strategies should be devised collaboratively by the art department, and with the support of management to address this.
- A good range of resources are available to the art department for practical studies and Art History.
- The art department provides students with additional contact with the subject through extra-curricular and co-curricular initiatives. Involvement in the school musical, artwork for Mental Health Week, and Young Social Innovator are a few of the artistic opportunities available for students that complement the curriculum.
- There is a good presence of Artwork throughout the school, and it is commendable that the art department has plans to facilitate the rotation of such displays more regularly.
- Parents and students are regularly updated on progress in Art through end of term examinations and reports, and annual parent-teacher meetings.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

- All lessons observed followed long-term plans which are in line with curricular requirements. Good preparation for materials and resources was noted in all lessons observed.
- Some good individual long-term planning, and an overview of the aims and objectives for Art were seen in the department plans. The art department should take a collaborative approach to develop these plans further.

- Differentiation, assessment and literacy and numeracy should be included in all schemes for Art, as well as a review section to reflect on the effectiveness of the planned learning outcomes.
- A subject coordinator is in place and formal termly meetings take place for which minutes are recorded. The agenda for these meetings should be reviewed to prioritise discussion and sharing of teaching and learning methodologies, and assessment practices.
- The analysis of state examinations and other relevant data should be used to inform planning. Cognisance should be taken of students' experience and abilities in Art to ensure that the planned schemes provide appropriate levels of challenge.

The draft findings and recommendations arising out of this evaluation were discussed with the principal/deputy principal/subject teachers at the conclusion of the evaluation. The board accepts the report as the final inspection report available for publication and wishes to respond formally to the report. The Board agrees that the response submitted will be included as an appendix to the published report. The board's response is submitted below.

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 of Lucan Community College welcomes the Art Subject Inspection report. It acknowledges the findings of the report in particular the quality of teaching and learning observed, the highly effective methodologies observed, the rich body of displayed student work, the quality of whole school provision and the well-structured, well-paced, well planned lessons observed with appropriate support for students.

The Board also notes that the Art Department support students on teaching practice and commends the professional development opportunities that this affords.

The Board commends the Art Department and students for their ongoing work and engagement with the subject and for their ongoing support and involvement in whole school events and activities

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 difficulties with the kiln facilities have been referred to the building unit of our patron body DDLETB for interim measures to be taken.

The Art Department has discussed the possibility of providing written formative feedback on practical work and are considering approaches to introducing self-assessment and peer assessment in a structured manner.

The need to increase the time allocation for LCA Art has been addressed for the coming year.

The Art Department will investigate ways to increase uptake at Senior Cycle but believe that a restructuring of the assessment process at Leaving Certificate could increase student confidence in achieving a high grade and improve uptake at Senior Cycle.

The Art Department has discussed the recommendations in relation to teaching and learning in particular the inclusion of an element of new content in all lessons and building on the current good practice of working from primary sources for project work and plan to address this going forward.

The Art Department is collaboratively reviewing planning documentation to include integration of support studies at Junior Cycle and to include more explicit references to literacy, numeracy, differentiation and assessment.

The Art Department welcomes the positive feedback from the inspector and found the discussions held to be a useful opportunity to share good practice.

The college will share the recommendations of the report across all subjects to further enhance the quality of teaching and learning in the college.

