

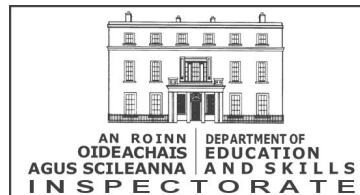
**An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna**

**Department of Education and Skills**

**Follow-Through Inspection  
REPORT**

**Saint Joseph's CBS Secondary School  
Drogheda, County Louth  
Roll number: 63840C**

**Date of inspection: 9 February 2016**



<b>Date of original inspection<sup>1</sup></b>	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	<b>Type of original report</b>	WSE-MLL	<b>Date of FT inspection</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
<b>Report published</b>	Yes				
<b>Follow-through inspection activities</b>					
<p><i>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</i></p> <p>Meeting with senior management team  Meeting with members of the in-school management team  Meeting with relevant teachers  Interaction with students  Review of school documentation  Review of resources and facilities  Communication with chairperson of board of management  Communication with parents</p>					
<b>Recommendation in original inspection report</b>		<b>Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation</b>			
<p>In order to achieve a broader ownership of the school self-evaluation (SSE) and school development planning (SDP) processes, there is scope for greater collaboration with all members of the school community in developing SMART targets for improvement and in reporting on progress in the future.</p>		<p><b>Very good progress</b></p> <p>The school, supported by the board of management, addressed the recommendations immediately following the WSE-MLL evaluation. Posts of responsibility at assistant principal level were re-ordered to permit the appointment of a SSE/SDP co-ordinator. All staff members interviewed in the follow-through inspection activities described the current approach to SSE as a collaborative process with a practical focus on identifying and implementing assessment-for-learning strategies. SSE is now supported by a seven-member team, the six-step SSE process is being implemented fully. The school expects to be in a position to publish and implement the AfL plan, the school's third SSE strand, in September 2016.</p>			
<p>In reviewing future curriculum provision, favourable consideration should be given to increasing the number of places on the Transition Year (TY) programme and to the introduction of the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP).</p>		<p><b>Good progress</b></p> <p>The TY programme has been increased twofold since the WSE-MLL evaluation; currently 52% of the students eligible for TY are availing of the programme. A detailed policy on the TY selection and admission process has been published by the board of management. The school is developing and embedding the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programme and the board remains amenable to reintroducing LCVP at a future date.</p>			
<p>The good approaches to subject department planning evident in a minority of plans should be implemented across the full range of subjects.</p>		<p><b>Good progress</b></p> <p>The SDP coordinator is providing specific advice on developing common subject-department planning templates. Some subject areas have integrated key elements of subject planning into a coherent set of user-friendly working documents best exemplified in schemes of work.</p>			
<p>In reviewing the range of responsibilities that are devolved to middle management, there is a case for including whole-school self-evaluation and planning.</p>		<p><b>Very good progress</b></p> <p>This recommendation has been fully implemented. The assigned area of SSE enjoys the confidence and support of the entire staff. Expressions of interest in developing peer-observation among a number of teachers as a pilot project are a positive sign of developments in teaching and learning.</p>			
<b>Summary of findings</b>					
<p>The school has engaged fully with each of the recommendations of the 2014 WSE-MLL report. Ongoing work shows there is wide support for developing professional practice in teaching and learning. The school has separately introduced CAT4 computer-based assessment tests and is analysing the score findings to guide teaching and learning. A very positive spirit was evident among all of the staff members and students interviewed in the course of the follow-through inspection.</p>					

<sup>1</sup> Date on cover of original inspection report

<b>Recommendations</b>
No further recommendations arise in relation to the recommendations in the original report.

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 of St Joseph's Secondary School is very pleased with the encouraging Inspectorate's Follow Through Report. The Board recognises it as a fair and accurate assessment of the significant progress made on the implementation of the recommendations made in the original inspection report. The Board appreciates and acknowledges the sterling work of senior management, middle management and all the staff, and the significant advances and progress that have been made, especially since the initial WSE MLL Inspection. The Board is committed to the continued development and growth of St Joseph's.

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