

An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna
Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection
REPORT

Rosses Community School
Dungloe, County Donegal
Uimhir rolla: 91407T

Date of inspection: 5 February 2015



Date of original inspection	24/9/2012	Type of original report	WSE-MLL	Date of FT inspection	05/02/2015
Report published	Yes				
Follow-through inspection activities					
<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 Meeting with students Review of school documentation and records</p>					
Recommendation in original inspection report		Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation			
A Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) policy should be devised and swiftly brought forward for ratification.		<p>Good progress</p> <p>Shortly after the WSE-MLL evaluation a member of the senior management team drafted a RSE policy. The policy was presented to all the school partners and ratified by the board of management at an early date. The RSE policy is currently (Feb 2015) part of a work-in-progress review of Pastoral Care and Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) provision. The RSE policy is included among an alphabetical listing of policies on the school's website but in light of the review, the text is not currently available. While senior cycle students interviewed were vague on RSE provision to date in the current year, the 2014/15 school calendar of RSE and well-being activities shows a very considerable programme as well as a high investment in staff training and maintaining staff motivation. A very even gender balance is apparent in the team delivering RSE.</p>			
The board should more proactively monitor the progress of student achievement across the range of subjects within the school.		<p>Good progress</p> <p>The board has received analyses of student attainment in the certificate examinations although references in board minutes examined are oblique. This is set to change. Teaching and learning (T & L) is one of the seven themes addressed in the school's published Strategic Plan 2013-2016. Monitoring and analysing student achievement is central to the work of the T & L committee that is leading this theme. This work will in time provide the board with a more detailed picture of student achievement. This will allow the board to consider plotting improved targets based on well-filtered attainment data, reports of ongoing staff engagement with developing T & L classroom practices, and reliable performance indicators.</p>			
Management should ensure that the school provides a minimum of twenty-eight hours of instruction per week and that all class groups attend for the full school year.		<p>Good progress</p> <p>Twenty-eight hours instruction time, including class-contact tutorial time of fifty minutes weekly, is provided to all year groups except Transition Year (TY) students who continue to access work experience one day a week (Wednesday) throughout the school year. School management explained that this arrangement best meets local circumstances for providing work-experience opportunities and confirmed that it does not adversely affect the high school attendance rates among TY students on Thursdays and Fridays.</p>			
The DEIS planning process should be more central in driving school improvement.		<p>Very good progress</p> <p>The DEIS planning process has become the catalyst for a major investment of human resources in whole-school planning, evident in the Strategic Plan 2013-2016. This plan covers all of the DEIS strands and includes further areas for development.</p>			
Summary of findings					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive progress was evident in each of the four main recommendations of the WSE-MLL report. • Evidence gathered during this follow-through inspection points to a huge investment in school self-evaluation, and planning for improvement since the WSE-MLL evaluation – most obvious in the excellently presented and 					

ambitious Strategic Plan 2013-16. Caution is urged to ensure that the very high investment of resources in the Strategic Plan will not over-extend school capacity.

Recommendations

- Subject plans examined have scope to be more closely aligned and referenced to the DEIS plan. These should include, for example, action plans for improved attainment. The specific areas of attention, planned for targeted students within DEIS, should also be explored.

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.