An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna

Department of Education and Skills

Follow-Through Inspection REPORT

Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara
Carna, County Galway
Roll number: 91411K

Date of inspection: 13 November 2015

AN ROINN OIDEACHAIS AGUS SCILEANNA | DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SKILLS

INSPECTORATE

Date of original inspection[1]	26 September 2012	**Type of original report**	WSE-MLL	**Date of FT inspection**	13 November 2015
Report published	Yes				

Follow-through inspection activities

The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection

- Meeting with principal
- Meeting with other relevant members of staff
- Review of school documentation and records

Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
It is recommended that the board of management formulate a strategic plan, of which the whole school community will have ownership, and that they ensure that the appropriate structures are in place to implement the plan.	**Partial progress** The school management has been focusing on a whole-school DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) plan since the WSE-MLL inspection in 2012. Although there is no written whole-school strategic plan in place, good work has been carried out on strategic planning as the school addresses the challenges it faces.
A action plan for the language should be part of this comprehensive plan.	**Partial progress** A action plan for the language is still to be developed and the recommendation to review the whole-school policy for Irish has not been implemented. Useful initiatives have begun this year to encourage the use of Irish and promote it in the school community, for example, a language assistant has been appointed, a conversation club established and Transition Year activities.
It is recommended that the teachers develop subject planning in order to achieve the best possible standard in teaching and learning.	**Partial progress** There was evidence that a share of the Croke Park hours has been used for this, based on the sample of subject plans observed. The quality of these plans ranged between very good and those in need of significant development. It is necessary to set out an action plan for each subject, in the context of whole-school targets agreed as part of the DEIS planning process.
It is recommended that the principles and practices of assessment for learning be promoted in the school.	**Partial progress** A representative from the Professional Development Service for Teachers gave a presentation on assessment for learning (AfL) in October 2015. Three strategies have been agreed at the whole-staff level and there is a notice board in the staffroom to consolidate AfL principles and practices among teachers.
Attention should be paid to the promotion of literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum.	**Partial progress** The school formally began the DEIS planning process in the 2014-2017 cycle and specific focus was placed on literacy and numeracy. Good work is being carried out in the school to improve the students' literacy in Irish and English as well as their numeracy skills. A good mix of whole-school strategies and in-class initiatives are being implemented. A good school improvement plan has been developed for numeracy since the end of the 2014/15 school year to reinforce the good work in the DEIS plan. For the most part, the same staff members are responsible for DEIS and SSE planning, something that facilitates and ensures crossover between both planning processes.

Summary of findings

The school has made partial progress in respect of the five recommendations in the WSE-MLL report. The most substantial and successful progress has been made in DEIS and SSE planning. It is still necessary to review the school's Irish language policy and to develop an action plan for the language as a central part of this.

Recommendations

As DEIS planning and the SSE process are currently the key priorities of the school and in order to ensure the viability of both processes, it is recommended that a member of staff is designated to all themes of DEIS / SSE. This

[1] Date specified on the cover of the original inspection

will result in a better responsibility structure for coordinating all of the themes and such an approach would cultivate a greater awareness and ownership among the entire staff. Responsibility should be given to a specific staff members to design whole-school strategies to deal with the challenges related to the use of Irish as the medium of instruction and communication in the school. It is recommended that these strategies are agreed at a whole-staff level and to include in this consultation the language planning process occurring in the Carna area.

The board of management of the school was given an opportunity to comment on the findings and recommendations of the report; the board chose to accept the report without response.

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