

**An Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna**  
**Department of Education and Skills**

**Follow-Through Inspection**

**REPORT**

<b>Ainm na scoile/ School name</b>	St Raphaela's N. S.
<b>Seoladh na scoile/ School address</b>	Upper Kilmacud Road Stillorgan Co. Dublin
<b>Uimhir rolla / Roll number</b>	17470I

**Date of Evaluation: 19-09-2016**



## Follow-Through Inspection

ORIGINAL INSPECTION DETAILS	FOLLOW THROUGH INSPECTION DETAILS
<b>Type:</b> Whole School Evaluation <b>Date of Inspection:</b> 20 November 2013 <b>Report Published?</b> Yes	<b>Date of Inspection:</b> 19-09-2016
Follow-through inspection activities	
<p>The following activities took place in the course of the follow-through inspection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Principal and/or senior management team - YES</li> <li>• Interview with members of in-school management team or subject co-ordinator - YES</li> <li>• Interview with relevant teachers/members of staff - YES</li> <li>• Review of school documentation and records and pupils'/students' work - YES</li> <li>• Review of resources and facilities - NO</li> <li>• Observation of teaching and learning - YES</li> <li>• Interaction with pupils/students - YES</li> <li>• Contact with chairperson of board of management - YES</li> </ul>	
Recommendation in original inspection report	Progress achieved to date on implementation of recommendation
<p><i>The formalising of systems for the sharing of pedagogical practice is advised to support the dissemination of best practice in teaching and appropriate expectations for learning.</i></p>	<p><i>Very good progress</i></p> <p><i>A number of very effective systems have been put in place to support and promote the dissemination of best practice.</i></p> <p><i>(i) Small groups of teachers have opted into working groups to facilitate both the sourcing and the sharing of best practice. The current focus of these groups is on: the use of ICT as a learning tool; the use of play methodology in the infant classes; the development of a mentoring system for new teachers to the school, and for newly qualified teachers and Science and Maths education. These working groups also support the building of capacity among the staff.</i></p> <p><i>(ii) Team teaching is being extended. It is now being used more extensively in the teaching of oral Irish, in the provision of learning support and in the implementation of literacy stations in junior classes.</i></p> <p><i>(iii) An agreed approach to planning has been agreed and a shared drive has been created for staff to share and save useful resources.</i></p> <p><i>(iv) The clear emphasis placed on communication at all levels by the principal has to date been very helpful in</i></p>

	<p><i>sharing and maintaining the good practices. This includes communicating with the pupil body through the newly established student council.</i></p>
<p><i>As the school grows and develops a key priority will be to recognise how to sustain success and excellence into the future.</i></p>	<p><i>Very good progress</i></p> <p><i>The board of management made a strategic decision to extend the tenure of the chairperson until the new principal was in situ for two years. This continuity has been very significant in supporting the principal to provide stability, to maintain and sustain the ethos and the good practices. The board's examination and review of the learning outcomes in the school is also a very effective way to keep the leadership focused on standards and learning outcomes and this should continue to inform the teaching approaches that are promoted through the school. The board has made a commitment to financially supporting CPD among the staff members and a number of teachers have availed of this support. The adoption, by the principal in conjunction with the deputy principal, of an action-planning approach in meetings with staff has led to strengths and areas for development being collaboratively identified, and a two-year plan for the future being put in place.</i></p>
<p><b>Summary of findings</b></p>	
<p>The school population of St. Raphaela's has grown significantly since the Whole School Evaluation in 2013: from 396 pupils to 470 pupils in September 2016. The number of teaching staff and the physical size of the school building have grown concurrently. This rapid expansion coincided with the appointment of a new principal in September 2015. In the face of these changes, the leadership and management of the school have made very good progress on both of the recommendations made in the WSE report. They have been strategic in managing the recent changes and are working in a focused manner to ensure effective systems are in place for disseminating good practice and sustaining success.</p>	
<p><b>Recommendations</b></p>	
<p>No further recommendations arise in relation to the recommendations in the original report.</p>	

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.