



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

**Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Drumglass High School
Dungannon**

September 2014

A FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF DRUMGLASS HIGH SCHOOL, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE (521-0231)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a standard inspection of Drumglass High School in April 2011. Two follow-up inspections (FUIs) were carried out, first in May 2013 and again in September 2014. In all three inspections¹, the quality of provision was evaluated as satisfactory.

In the interval since the FUI in 2013, there have been a number of staff changes, including within the senior leadership team. At the time of the FUI in 2014, the governors were recruiting two senior teachers into a newly-formed management structure. The enrolment has decreased from 335 to 302; the percentage of pupils entitled to free school meals has increased to 20% and the percentage of pupils on the special educational needs register has also grown to almost 30%.

There are currently no pupils in year 13 and only ten in year 14.

The school continues to build on a number of improvements noted in the 2013 FUI which include:

- improved staff morale, working relationships and communication as reflected in the very positive and supportive returns from a staff questionnaire in September 2014;
- increased and consistent use of assessment data to profile the abilities of individual pupils, to monitor their behaviour and attendance, and to track their progress; and
- sustained improvement in the standards achieved by the pupils in GCSE mathematics, which are now well above the Northern Ireland average for similar schools.

In the lessons observed recently, the quality of learning and teaching was at least satisfactory, with most being good or very good.

The percentage of year 12 pupils obtaining grades A* to C in at least 5 subjects, including GCSE English and mathematics, was below the average for similar schools in 2012 and 2013 and remains low. In 2014, 31% of pupils attained five or more qualifications, including GCSE English and mathematics, at grades A*-C which, taking account of the increase in the free school meal entitlement, is almost in line with the average for similar schools. There is variation in pupil outcomes across subjects (although comparisons with the NI average are affected disproportionately by the small numbers of pupils taking some subjects). The need to improve standards, which was identified in the FUI in 2013, remains an ongoing area for improvement.

Given the variation in pupil outcomes across subjects, the changing profile of the pupils and the decline in sixth form provision, it would be timely that the school carry out a review of the curriculum, informed by analysis of the school's internal data and the teachers' increased awareness of the individual pupils' needs, interests and abilities.

¹ The reports are available at www.etini.gov.uk

Conclusion

Overall, the quality of education provided by the school remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision.

As the school continues to develop its leadership and management arrangements and build capacity at all levels, it will be important to improve further the standards achieved by the pupils, with a particular focus on the variation in outcomes across subjects.

It is also important that the employing authority, governors and staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the decline in sixth form provision in order to address the current and future needs of the pupils and the staff.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the area for improvement.

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