



*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

**Lisnagarvey High School
Lisburn**

September 2012

A SECOND FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LISNAGARVEY HIGH SCHOOL, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT28 1HN (421-0051)

A standard inspection of Lisnagarvey High School in November 2008 by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) evaluated the quality of the provision as satisfactory and identified a number of important areas for improvement in standards, learning and teaching and in management.

The ETI carried out a follow-up inspection (FUI) on 14 and 15 March 2011 and evaluated the quality of provision as inadequate. As a result the school entered the formal intervention process on 6 April 2011.

The FUI identified the continued need for improvements in the quality of the pupils' work across the whole range of abilities, in the standards attained in public examinations and in leadership and management, including actions to promote improvement.

The report also recommended that the employing authority, governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the sixth-form provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the pupils and the staff.

The Department of Education (DE) indicated that a second FUI would take place. The post-inspection action plan was received in June 2011 by the DE who acknowledged the positive response that the school had made, and planned to make, regarding the areas for improvement.

An interim follow-up visit carried out on 24 May 2012 identified that the school was addressing partially the key issues for improvement identified in the standard and FUI inspection reports. The Principal and the Chair of Governors reported that they were satisfied with the level of support being provided by the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) of the South Eastern Education and Library Board.

The second FUI was carried out on 25 and 26 September 2012.

Since the first FUI, a number of actions which affect the work of the school include the following:

- an increase in enrolment from 381 to 444 and the appointment of new members of staff, in particular for mathematics and English;
- the senior management team (SMT), with the support of the CASS, reviewed the school development plan and put in place a revised learning and teaching policy; and
- working groups were set up to monitor the progress in vital areas for improvement, personal education plans were developed and audited to assist in tracking the pupils' progress against individual targets and the SMT provided additional numeracy periods in key stage (KS) 3.

The effectiveness of these actions needs to be monitored and evaluated to ensure that they lead to an improvement in the quality of learning and teaching and raise standards.

The quality of teaching ranged from satisfactory to good in the small number of lessons observed during the FUI.

There have been some improvements in attendance and in some of the outcomes at KS3, KS4 and A level, which are:

- an increase in overall attendance, with the help of a family liaison officer, from 85% to 89% while remaining well below the NI average particularly in years 10, 11 and 12;
- the increase in the percentage of pupils gaining level 5 and above in English at KS3 from 48% to 70%, which is well above the NI average for similar schools;
- the increase in the percentage of pupils obtaining grades A*-C at General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) in at least five subjects from 43.5% to 65.1% which is well above the NI average for similar schools; and
- for the small number of pupils taking A levels, the increase in the percentage of pupils obtaining grades A* to E at A Level in two or more subjects from 92% to 100%.

However, the percentage of pupils gaining level 5 and above in mathematics at KS3, while increasing from 32% to 52%, remains below the NI average for similar schools.

Furthermore, the percentage of pupils obtaining grades A*-C at GCSE in at least five subjects including English and mathematics has decreased from 19.6% to 9.3% which is significantly below the NI average for similar schools.

The important areas for improvement continue to be the need:

- to raise the standards achieved in public examinations;
- to improve monitoring and evaluation by management at all levels to ensure that self-evaluation, action planning and target setting lead to sustained improvement in the quality of the pupils' work across the whole range of abilities; and
- for the employing authority, governors and the staff to plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the unviable sixth-form provision, where there are only 14 pupils in year 14, and also related to the school budget, in order to address more effectively the current and future needs of the pupils and the staff.

CONCLUSION

Overall the provision in the school remains inadequate; the areas for improvement outweigh the strengths in the provision. The school is unable to demonstrate evidence of sustained improvement in the outcomes for pupils at KS4, and there are significant areas for improvement in learning and teaching and in leadership and management which still need to be addressed urgently if the needs of all the pupils are to be met effectively.

The Inspectorate will carry out a further follow-up inspection within 12 months and a report will be published.

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