

eti

*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Area-Based Inspection

**St Gerard's Education Resource Centre
Belfast**

March 2009

AREA-BASED INSPECTION - WEST BELFAST AREA 2009: STRATEGIC PLANNING, COHERENCE IN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an area-based inspection in St Gerard's Education Resource Centre, Belfast during March 2009.

Strengths include:

- the very good commitment and dedication of the staff to meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils;
- the good range of work-based learning opportunities and experiences provided for the pupils in the wider community;
- the very good support of the parents and governors for the life and work of the school;
- the good arrangements for the transfer of information at key transition stages within the school; and
- the good quality of the teaching in the lessons observed.

Areas for improvement are the need to:

- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the learning programmes at key stage 4 in preparing pupils for post-16 provision; and
- ensure that all staff are trained in the arrangements for child protection, and review the procedures for teachers transporting pupils to work placements.

The overall composite report for the area-based inspection raises some important recurring areas for improvement. While these are not applicable in all the individual organisations, they are nevertheless important to address across the West Belfast area.

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