



*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 Patrick's College
Ballymena**

February 2009

AREA-BASED INSPECTION - BALLYMENA 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 Patrick's College during February 2009.

The strengths include:

- the good strategic planning and arrangements for collaboration with other educational partners to provide a range of learning opportunities for the pupils;
- the very good quality of care and support for the individual needs of the pupils, particular the arrangements for pupils for whom English is an additional language;
- the very good transition arrangements, particularly for pupils transferring from year 7 to year 8;
- the very good formal and informal learning experiences which develop the pupils' confidence and self-esteem; and
- the very good support provided by the staff to promote social and educational inclusion and increase access to education and training that meets the needs of all young people.

The areas for improvement include the need to:

- review, as a matter of urgency, the careers education, information, advice and guidance provision within the school; and
- raise further the levels of attainment in General Certificate of Secondary Education English and mathematics in order for the young people to reach their full potential and access appropriate progression opportunities.

While a few specific areas for improvement have been identified in this report, the composite report from the area-based inspection raises broader issues which need to be addressed by all of the schools and organisations visited.

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