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*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**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Beechlawn School  
Hillsborough**

**June 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF BEECHLAWN SCHOOL, HILLSBOROUGH, CO DOWN, BT26 6PA (431-0008)**

The focused inspection in 2007 highlighted strengths in the standard of teaching and learning and the positive working relationships amongst staff and pupils. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to implement fully the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education circulars for pastoral care and child protection;
- to clarify the roles and responsibilities of leaders and co-ordinators;
- to develop systems for self-evaluation and monitoring within the school; and
- to improve the assessment of the pupils' academic, vocational and pastoral progress and to ensure appropriate accreditation and careers advice.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place:

- a full senior leadership team was appointed.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out three monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 9 June 2009.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality.

The school development plan (SDP) has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The SDP partially meets the statutory requirements as set out by the School Development Plan Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The school has demonstrated the capacity to address a few remaining minor areas for improvement.

The following are the most important improvements since the focused inspection:

- the good quality of the pastoral care and child protection arrangements;
- the effective use of the pupils' assessments to inform learning and teaching;
- the accreditation and further education and training opportunities which have been reviewed and changed to suit the needs of the pupils; and
- the review of the roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators and leaders.

Since the inspection, the school has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvement made, and helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through effective self-evaluation, the school demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are maintained.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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