



*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

Belfast Boys' Model School

September 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF BELFAST BOYS' MODEL SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT14 6RB, (121-0022)

The standard inspection in March 2006 highlighted strengths which included: the very strongly positive and caring ethos, the stable and supportive learning environment created for the pupils, the commitment of the Principal, senior management team and of the staff generally, to the school, it's pupils, and to serving the needs and meeting the aspirations of the local community, the extensive community outreach and extra-curricular activities, and the quality of the teaching which was typically good and at times excellent.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to improve the standards achieved in external examinations at key stage (KS) 3, General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and GCE Advanced (A) level;
- to improve the school's strategic planning and development through the introduction of more rigorous monitoring and evaluation arrangements, including the more effective use and dissemination of performance data; and
- to continue to address the needs of those pupils for whom the school's current curricular and examination entry arrangements are not sufficiently appropriate or effective, and improve the extent to which information and communication technology (ICT) is used to enhance learning and teaching across the curriculum.

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

- the building of a new school under the Public Private Partnership initiative has begun;
- the changes and additions made to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT);
- the school's participation in the Belfast Education and Library Board, Achieving Belfast initiative; and
- the school's participation in the Full Service School programme.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 29 and 30 September 2008, following a monitoring visit in the interim period.

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

- the effective restructuring of roles and responsibilities at SLT and middle management level to meet the agreed priorities for improvement;
- the good progress made in using relevant qualitative and quantitative data, at all levels, to promote improvement in learning and teaching;
- the effective use of ICT to support learning and teaching;

- the use of effective learning and teaching strategies, associated with the revisions to the Northern Ireland Curriculum, to promote the dissemination of good practice across the school;
- the integrated approach across the school to supporting the pupils' learning; and
- the increasing range of appropriate courses to meet the needs of all the learners.

The main area which requires further improvement is to:

- improve further the standards achieved in external examinations at KS3, GCSE and A level.

Good progress has been made in the important areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this organisation is now satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The organisation has demonstrated evidence of improvement but some aspects in standards remain to be addressed if the needs of all the learners are to be met more effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the organisation's progress in addressing the remaining area for improvement.

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