



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Bloomfield Collegiate
Belfast**

March 2008

FOLLOW UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF BLOOMFIELD COLLEGIATE BELFAST, BT5 6HW (142-0018)

The standard inspection in January 2006 highlighted strengths in the school's ethos, the work of the Principal and Vice-principals, the quality of pastoral care, the standards achieved by the pupils, the quality of teaching, the provision for careers education and guidance, the positive start made to self-evaluation, and the hard work and commitment of the teachers. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to review the existing structures for management at all levels, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of the members of the senior management team (SMT) in order to take greater account of recent curricular and organisational change and improve communication throughout the school; and
- to plan more strategically for the systematic development of information and communication technology (ICT) throughout the school, and develop further the use of ICT to ensure that its potential to support and enhance learning and teaching is realised as fully as possible.

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

- the school accessed support from the Belfast Education and Library Board Curriculum and Advisory Support Service, and engaged with other schools in the development of ICT.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits, and a follow-up inspection on 3 March 2008. The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- the review of the management structures which has resulted in the identification of more strategic roles and responsibilities for the members of the SMT, and increased opportunities at middle management level, as evidenced by the work of the curriculum leaders group and the ICT strategy team;
- the innovative measures put in place to improve links within and across departments, and to support the ongoing and collaborative curriculum and development work;
- the clear priority and focus on the further development of ICT, underpinned by good strategic planning and investment in resources, and the willingness and commitment of the staff to the further embedding of ICT across the school;
- the improving and evolving range of opportunities for the pupils to develop and apply ICT skills in relevant contexts, and the integration of arrangements for the assessment of the pupils' ICT skills; and

- the active participation by several teachers in curriculum and other pilots with a significant e-dimension which are providing good learning and development opportunities for the staff and pupils involved.

Since the inspection, the school evaluated well 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.

Very good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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