



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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*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**

**Bloomfield Collegiate Preparatory Department  
Belfast**

**February 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE SHORT INSPECTION OF BLOOMFIELD COLLEGIATE PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT, BELFAST, BT5 6HW (162-0018)**

The short inspection in October 2006 highlighted strengths in the school's ethos, including the excellent links with the parents, the strong sense of community and welcoming environment; the well-motivated children who produce work of a good standard; the overall quality of the teaching, including the efforts made by the school to support the children who have specific difficulties of their learning; and in the leadership and management, including the good start to self-evaluation. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to build on the useful start made in the process of self-evaluation and address the key issues identified within the school's own evaluation report. These areas include the need to provide more challenging learning experiences for the children, particularly the more able, in order to promote learning and to raise the standards of their achievements; and
- to build on the useful work undertaken in the process of planning for learning and teaching, in particular, to incorporate more detail on how the identified learning objectives are to be achieved and how the varying needs of the children are to be met.

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

- the department accessed support for literacy, and for planning, from the Belfast Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service; and
- the department acquired additional resources for literacy.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits, and a follow-up inspection on 2 February 2009.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality. The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan partially meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

Very good progress has been made in the areas of improvement identified during the original inspection. The following are the most important improvements since the short inspection:

- the department has established effective links with others to promote and extend the children's learning across the curriculum within and beyond the classroom;
- the teachers have reviewed their planning for literacy and numeracy which includes more detail on how the identified learning objectives are to be achieved, and shows clear progression across all of the year groups;
- the teachers use a wide range of teaching strategies to challenge, motivate and engage the children and to meet the varying needs within the classes; and

- the teachers have compiled samples of work in literacy to ensure consistency in marking, and to inform further improvement in the standards.

Since the inspection, the department 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 to the improvement made, and helped the department identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through self-evaluation, the department 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 organisation is now very good. The organisation is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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