



*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**

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

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

**Clarawood School**  
**Belfast**

**April 2010**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF CLARAWOOD SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT5 6FR (131-6584)**

The focused inspection in 2008, highlighted strengths in the secure, caring ethos, the good quality pastoral care, the good quality teaching and the sound support given to individual pupils and schools through the outreach service. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop an effective system for monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching in the school and in outreach provision to lead to further improvement; and
- to provide a forum to support discussion about the quality of the work and to encourage the dissemination of good practice.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the school have taken place. For example:

- a review of the main school curriculum including curricular arrangements and timetables to ensure greater focus on literacy, numeracy and the revised curriculum;
- the implementation of new systems for monitoring and evaluating teaching and learning in the school and on outreach, including observation of teaching;
- a review of staff skills and interests;
- the further involvement of parents through, for example, seeking their views through the use of a questionnaire; and
- a re-draft of the outreach policy.

The schools development planning has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education. The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection is of good quality and was adjusted appropriately in the light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits, and a follow-up inspection on Friday 16 April 2010.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the improved focus on monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching which has ensured a clearer knowledge, understanding and documenting of pupil's progress in the school and on outreach and of the pupil's achievements in improving their behaviour and attitude to learning;
- the more systematic approach to evaluating the impact of the outreach service and to planning for its future development;
- the development of effective methods of promoting improvement, for example, through the sharing of good practice and agreed approaches which has resulted in further progress in the quality of teaching and learning; and

- the effective review of curriculum priorities based on the detailed understanding of pupil's needs and interests which has resulted in a stronger emphasis on the link between progress in learning and improvement in behaviour.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now very good. The school 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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