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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Corpus Christi College
Belfast**

January 2007

SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (SSP) FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, BELFAST, BT12 6FF (123-0262)

The SSP follow-up inspection in January 2006 highlighted strengths in the leadership of the principal and in the pro-active efforts by management in the teaching of literacy as a cross-curricular activity. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to disseminate to the staff information on the poor levels of attainment by some of the pupils;
- to develop agreed learning and teaching strategies that are specifically designed to raise the pupils' level of attainment, particularly in English, mathematics and science.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions, which affect the work of the college, have taken place:

- a new head of mathematics department has been appointed; and
- the college has acquired additional resources for work with its feeder primary schools.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection in January 2007.

The college has made satisfactory progress and the following are the most important improvements since the SSP follow-up inspection:

- the Principal, ably assisted by the members of the senior management team, continues to provide sound leadership and vision for the future development of the college and the community it serves;
- the college continues to develop the work in providing appropriate careers guidance for the pupils, particularly in the vocational programmes;
- effective use is being made of performance data in some subject areas to identify areas of concern, and to develop teaching resources to address the specific learning needs of the pupils;
- the college has made good use of the support provided by the curriculum advisory and support staff of the Belfast Education and Library Board;
- the significant improvement in external assessment results, particularly at key stage 3 and in General Certificate of Secondary Education, English and Maths;
- fewer pupils are leaving the college without any qualifications;

- the college is working hard to develop programmes to promote the health and well-being of the pupils;
- the continued development of a multi-agency approach to improve the lives of pupils and families experiencing particular social problems;
- the increasing emphasis on study skills training across all the academic subject areas; and
- the continued efforts made by management to celebrate and promote the successes of both the pupils and the staff of the college.

The areas, which need further improvement, are:

- the college needs to develop further and disseminate more widely the useful approaches made in some subject departments in the use of the educational data to identify those pupils who are having difficulty with their learning and, once they have been identified to develop practical ways of raising their level of attainment;
- to share and disseminate the good learning and teaching strategies evident in some subject areas across all departments.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the College to ensure that the improvements, which are needed, are implemented.

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