



*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Immaculate Conception College
Derry**

May 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION COLLEGE, DERRY, BT47 2DS (223-0254)

The standard inspection in March 2007 highlighted strengths in the school to include:

- the good behaviour of the pupils;
- the good working relationships and mutual respect demonstrated between staff and pupils;
- the developing sense of team-work within the teaching staff;
- the hard-working staff and their commitment to the welfare of the pupils;
- the high quality of the pastoral provision for the pupils;
- the quality of the teaching observed which was always satisfactory; many lessons demonstrated significant strengths;
- the strong support afforded to the Principal from pupils, staff, governors and the local community; and
- the vision for the development of the school held by the Principal and Vice-principal.

The areas for improvement include the need to:

- use the quantitative data more effectively to promote improvement in learning and teaching and in attendance;
- review and develop the current curriculum to ensure the pupils' learning needs are fully met and career opportunities are enhanced; and
- improve the standards the pupils achieve in public examinations.

In the interval since the inspection, pupil numbers have risen slightly; one additional teacher has been appointed in mathematics and a significant number of pupils have joined the school for whom English is not their main language.

The School Development Plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets fully the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality.

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

- the excellent use made of data to include tracking and monitoring of the pupils' progress;
- the improving standards in General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) at A – C; and
- the start made to develop the current curriculum to provide alternate pathways.

Since the inspection the school evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture 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.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the school.

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