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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Kilkeel High School

March 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE AREA INSPECTION OF KILKEEL HIGH SCHOOL, BT34 4AT (521-0016)

The school was inspected in February 2005 as part of the pilot area inspection in the Newry and Mourne district. The inspection highlighted strengths in the co-operation, motivation and application of almost all the pupils, the strong community spirit and support of the parents, aspects of the teaching, the good standards achieved by many of the pupils and the breadth of opportunity across vocational and academic pathways. The inspection also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to broaden the teaching strategies through the dissemination of the excellent practice seen during the inspection - in particular, to improve the quality of teaching in the minority of lessons where the weaknesses outweighed the strengths or had significant weaknesses;
- the development of a more coherent and progressive careers education and guidance programme;
- the need to build on the key skills provision to provide a well-coordinated experience which is embedded in the pupils' experiences across the curriculum; and
- the need for more proactive leadership from the Principal and the senior management team to monitor and evaluate school initiatives to ensure improvement in the pupils' experiences and the standards achieved.

In the interval since the inspection, the following changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- the appointment of a new head of department for careers; and
- a comprehensive and helpful programme of support was provided, with the assistance of the Southern Education and Library Board, to address the teaching which was found to be unsatisfactory.

Following the inspection, the school agreed with the Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) to engage in a self-evaluative follow-up process. The school submitted a concise self-evaluative report to the Inspectorate, setting out its findings and, including clear

evidence of the progress made with the issues identified in the original inspection. There is clear evidence that the school, under the committed leadership of the Principal, is developing a systematic evaluative ethos for the development and implementation of school initiatives.

The Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 27 March 2007, in order to ascertain the progress made and to consider evidence for the evaluations provided by the school. The school has responded constructively, taken appropriate actions and is making good progress on the identified issues.

The most important improvements which have taken place since the inspection are:

- the clear and effective focus on learning and teaching, the quality of which now ranges from satisfactory to excellent;
- the provision for careers education and guidance under the enthusiastic leadership of the head of department;
- the comprehensive organisation of the provision for key skills and the development of links with the wider curriculum; and
- the development of systematic procedures for monitoring and evaluating the work of the school through appropriate consultation with pupils, parents and teachers.

The school has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the school's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of its self-evaluation process in response to the findings of the inspection.

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