



*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**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Movilla High School
Newtownards**

April 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MOVILLA HIGH SCHOOL, NEWTOWNARDS, CO DOWN, BT23 7HA (421-0012)

The focused inspection in May 2006 highlighted strengths in the hard-working and committed staff, the excellent quality of pastoral care, the ongoing work of the Principal and the senior management team in developing the sound start made to self-evaluation, and the good or better quality of teaching observed in the majority of the lessons. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to place a sharper focus on the standards expected and achieved in a significant minority of subject departments, including English, mathematics and science, and including the standards achieved in public examinations which could be higher;
- to ensure the better dissemination of the good to excellent practice seen; and
- to develop further the arrangements for self-evaluation, including the more effective use of performance data and first-hand evidence gained from monitoring, to review and improve further the standards and outcomes.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place. For example:

- new members were appointed to the Board of Governors; and
- new curricular teams were formed, with a strong focus on facilitating the dissemination of the good practice observed during the inspection.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection in April 2008.

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

- the much sharper focus on the standards expected and achieved;
- the substantial improvement in standards achieved in public examinations, particularly those at General Certificate in Secondary Education (GCSE);
- the good practice is now much more widespread, in particular, lessons are now focused increasingly around the effective use of expected learning outcomes by both teachers and pupils for teaching and learning purposes. This is an ongoing and important priority for action within the school; and
- the arrangements for self-evaluation are developing in a satisfactory manner, in particular the very good use made of quantitative information including benchmarked performance data for public examinations to review and improve further the standards and outcomes.

The school received good support from a Curriculum Advisory and Support Service officer during the follow up inspection period. The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

There are strengths in the school's approach to self-evaluation. Since the inspection, the school evaluated rigorously the progress made in the areas for improvement identified. The school provided clear evidence of good progress made following the inspection. The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvement made, and helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The Principal and his senior management team provided good leadership throughout this period.

The school has made good progress in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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