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*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**

**St Joseph's Boys' High School  
Newry**

**April 2007**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE AREA INSPECTION OF ST JOSEPH'S BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT35 6DH (523-0056)**

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 good behaviour of most of the pupils, the commitment and loyalty of the teachers, the enhanced curriculum breadth through the vocational provision and the improved performance in public examinations. The inspection also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the range and quality of the teaching approaches, along with higher learning expectations, to meet the needs of all of the pupils and ensure they develop their ability to learn independently;
- improved strategic planning across all of the provision, including careers education and guidance, to ensure a greater coherence in the individual learning programmes of the pupils; and
- a more rigorous review and analysis of the work of the school, at all levels, to better inform school development and improvement.

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

- the allocation of increased resources for careers education information, advice and guidance (CEIAG);
- the development of a revised scheme of work for CEIAG;
- the close alignment of the objectives of the school's Professional Review and Staff Development scheme and the development of the range and quality of teaching approaches; and
- the strong focus on embedding rigorous self-evaluation across the provision to inform school development planning processes.

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, supported by clear evidence of the progress made against the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The processes used to gather the evidence were effective. The Inspectorate confirms that the findings and recommendations arising from the process of self-evaluation are accurate and appropriate, and are an effective response to the areas for improvement identified in the original report.

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

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

- the clear and effective focus on the development of teaching and learning approaches which promote the pupils' capacity to develop as independent learners;
- the provision for careers education and guidance under the committed leadership of the head of department; and
- the development of rigorous self-evaluation at all levels, which reliably informs school development planning processes.

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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