



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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**Department of Education
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St Joseph's College
Coleraine**

May 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE AREA INSPECTION OF ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY, BT52 1HJ (323-0110)

The area inspection in March 2006 highlighted strengths in the good working relationships between the pupils and teachers, the quality of teaching and learning in most of the lessons, and the enthusiastic and effective leadership of the Principal. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to improve the performance in the public examinations, particularly at key stage (KS) 4; and
- the need for a more coherent and strategic approach to curriculum planning and development, which is underpinned by sound monitoring and evaluation.

In the interval since the inspection, the actions that affect the work of the school include:

- the school has set up a Curriculum Support Team, which meets regularly to lead curricular developments;
- the structure of the school day has been revised;
- the number of core subjects that pupils include in their selection of KS4 subjects has been reduced;
- the school has purchased extra computers to resource an area that includes additional information and communication technology (ICT) suites and the library;
- the mentoring system has been developed further; and
- the school has introduced a programme of intervention to support the pupils who experience difficulties with their reading.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 28 May 2008, following monitoring visits in the interim period.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- the views of pupils, parents and teachers inform the monitoring and evaluation processes;
- there is a greater focus on the progression in the pupils' ICT skills;
- there is more effective use of performance data, including the results of standardised tests; and

- the proportion of year 12 pupils who achieve 5 or more General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) awards at grade C or above has increased and is now in line with similar schools.

During the follow-up inspection, all of the teaching observed had many good features and, on occasions, it was excellent.

Since the inspection, the school has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed further to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Good progress has been made 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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