



*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 Louis Grammar School
Kilkeel**

March 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF ST LOUIS GRAMMAR SCHOOL, KILKEEL, CO DOWN, BT34 4EU (542-0045)

The standard inspection in October 2005 highlighted strengths in the commitment of the teaching and support staff to ensure pupils experience a caring educational environment and the positive start made to self-evaluation through departmental audits and action plans. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to clarify further the roles and responsibilities of the senior leadership and management team in relation to the leadership of school improvement;
- to review and rationalise the content of the School Development Plan (SDP) to ensure its implementation is manageable; and
- to further develop self-evaluation at all levels to ensure that monitoring and evaluation and target setting are informed by more systematic use of performance data and focus on standards and outcomes.

In the interval since the inspection, the Principal who was in post during the original inspection, retired in September 2007 and the current Principal was appointed in January 2008.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out three monitoring visits, and a follow-up inspection in March 2009.

The SDP has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education (DE).

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

Very good progress has been made in almost all of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

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

- the strong vision for school improvement which is shared by the Principal and the senior leadership team and which is communicated effectively to staff;
- the SDP, which is based on a thorough evaluation of the content and targets of the previous plan and which places a suitably strong emphasis on school improvement;
- the comprehensive, tailored staff development provided for all staff relating to self-evaluation and the analysis and interpretation of data to inform target setting; and
- the clearly defined roles and responsibilities of members of the senior leadership team, including their respective responsibilities with regard to school improvement.

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 almost all of 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 follow-up inspection has identified, however, some aspects for improvement that still have to be addressed in mathematics but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these. The Inspectorate will continue to monitor and report on this area for improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.