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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 Mary's College  
Irvinestown**

**February 2007**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST MARY'S COLLEGE, IRVINESTOWN, CO FERMANAGH, BT94 1EL (223-0109)**

The pilot inspection in January 2005 highlighted strengths in the school's provision, including the excellent caring and supportive ethos, the exemplary behaviour and positive responses of the pupils, the central role of the school in the community, the overall quality of the teaching and the strong and effective leadership provided by the Principal. The inspection identified the following key areas for improvement:

- the dissemination of the excellent teaching observed, in order to provide more consistently for the wide range of abilities of the pupils;
- the need to make more effective use of the information available, including quantitative data, to promote and record improvements in the quality of teaching and the standards achieved by the pupils in external examinations; and
- the further development of leadership and management roles across the school in order to consolidate and build on the progress made in recent years.

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

- the Principal left to take up a new position and a new Principal was appointed from outside the school (September 2006);
- the Vice-principal retired and a new Vice-principal was appointed from within the school (January 2007);
- a revised 2006/07 School Development Plan was drawn up and implemented, the main elements of which focused on teaching and learning and on the raising of standards in General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) examinations; and
- Senior Leadership, curricular and pastoral teams were formed.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 28 February 2007.

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

- the teachers have a greater awareness of the individual needs of the pupils and of the features that make for effective teaching and learning;
- strategies have been implemented to support the pupils in their work for external examinations; these include an individual mentoring programme for year 12 pupils, providing structured guidance for the completion of course work and the establishment of a homework club;
- the good start made to the gathering and analysis of data;

- the whole school approach to promoting improvement; and
- the work of the management teams in the development of the school's improvement and self-evaluative processes.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. It is important that this work, and particularly the effective use of performance data, continues to be developed in a systematic and strategic way, and becomes embedded in the day to day work of the school.

The District Inspector will continue to monitor the work of the school.

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