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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**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St Mary's High School
Limavady**

May 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL, LIMAVADY, CO LONDONDERRY, BT49 9AN (223-0077)

The focused inspection in March 2004 highlighted strengths in the school's provision, including the arrangements for the pastoral care of the pupils, the quality of much of the teaching, the quality of provision for pupils with special educational needs and the Principal's focus on learning and teaching and raising of standards. The inspection identified areas for improvement including:

- the need to monitor more effectively the pupils' written work; and
- the need to develop the role of all the staff in bringing about improvement in learning and teaching.

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

- a literacy co-ordinator has been appointed to promote the development of literacy across the school;
- a new leadership team has been established with a clear objective of promoting improvement in the context of the school's key learning and teaching policy;
- a reading partnership initiative has been implemented to help raise the standard of many of the pupils' reading skills;
- the staff have been provided with staff development in key areas, including behaviour management, marking, assessment, literacy and information and communication technology (ICT); and
- the school's accommodation has been developed significantly with improved provision particularly for the teaching of ICT, science and home economics.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 8 May 2007.

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

- the number of pupils requiring alternative education provision as a result of their behaviour has been reduced significantly;
- the implementation of the school's learning and teaching policy has led to improvements in results;
- there is more consistency across departments in the quality of marking and assessment of the pupils' work;
- there is a greater acknowledgement within subject departments of their role in promoting the pupils' literacy competence;

- the departmental development plans are more closely aligned to the overall objectives in the school development plan (SDP);
- the reading partnership initiative is effective in raising the reading competence of the pupils involved; and
- in the context of target-setting each department has a clearly outlined process for measuring the pupils' progress against key quality indicators.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are being well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the focused inspection.

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