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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
Promoting Improvement*



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**Department of Education  
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Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**St Patrick's College  
Maghera**

**November 2007**

## **FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAGHERA, CO LONDONDERRY, BT46 5BN (323-0234)**

The focused inspection in January 2006 highlighted among the strengths in the pastoral and education provision: the caring ethos; the motivation and co-operation of the pupils and the standards achieved; the quality of teaching and learning which was often good and, at times, excellent; the good range of opportunities for the pupils to develop and apply their skills in information and communication and technology; the thorough and professional monitoring and evaluation; and the strong and visionary leadership of the Principal.

As key areas for improvement, the inspection identified the need:

- for the English department to plan strategically and more rigorously to ensure coherence and progression in the pupils' learning; and
- to ensure more consistent and good quality learning experiences across the college through the dissemination of the innovative work already in place.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the college have taken place:

- eight Directors of Learning were appointed to lead subject areas; and
- a Head of key stage (KS) 3 English was appointed.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 16 November 2007.

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

- the evidence of collaboration within the English department, with the assistance of the senior management team, to produce an overview and schemes of work for KS3;
- the positive engagement of the staff to develop further the ethos and climate for the self-evaluation and improvement of the pastoral and educational provision;
- the development of appropriate and creative methods of sharing good practice for the benefit of the pupils;
- the range of appropriate opportunities for the pupils to engage in active learning; and
- the clear leadership of the Principal in developing the confidence of the staff to reflect more on their practice.

The areas for development relate specifically to the English department, which needs:

- to put in place effective procedures to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the KS3 schemes; and

- to take the lead in relation to literacy and communication across the curriculum.

Since the inspection, the college has evaluated effectively the progress made in the identified areas for improvement.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed to the improvements made and helped the college identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The follow-up inspection findings confirm that, through effective self-evaluation, the college demonstrated substantial evidence of improvement. Accordingly the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are maintained.

Very good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The provision in the majority of the areas for improvement originally identified is now characterised by many good features. The remaining areas for development need to be addressed by the English department.

In the areas inspected the college has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. There are minor areas for development which the college has the capacity to address.

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