

eti

*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

Ulidia Integrated College
Carrickfergus

February 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ULIDIA INTEGRATED COLLEGE, CARRICKFERGUS, CO ANTRIM, BT38 7JL (326-0299)

The standard inspection in Ulidia Integrated College, Carrickfergus in March 2007 highlighted strengths in the pastoral care provision; the commitment of the Principal, the senior management team, the staff and the governors; the good examination results at General Certificate of Secondary Education level; and the extensive community outreach and extra-curricular activities.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to strengthen the school's strategic planning and development through the introduction of more rigorous monitoring and evaluation at all levels, and through more effective use and dissemination of performance data;
- to broaden the range of learning and teaching approaches to ensure greater engagement of the pupils, for example, through the sharing of the current good practice; and
- to review the current curricular provision, to ensure that it is matched to the needs of the pupils.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions, which affect the work of the school have taken place.

- the appointment of a new Vice-principal for the curriculum;
- the restructuring of the curriculum team and the school day;
- the achievement of specialist school status in Digital, and Performing Arts; and
- the support provided by the North-Eastern Education and Library Board's Curriculum, Advisory and Support Service.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out three monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 2-3 February 2009.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was very good and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

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

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

- the use of an appropriate range of data to monitor and evaluate pupil progress and learning;
- the further development in the quality of the teaching, which continues to focus on active learning;
- the effective integration of pastoral care provision and the pupil support programme to remove barriers to learning;
- the school's positive participation in the Carrickfergus Learning Community;
- the appropriate adjustment of the post-16 curriculum choices for pupils; and
- the developing links with local primary and special schools, and community groups.

Since the inspection, the school evaluated rigorously the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvements 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. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are maintained.

Very good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified an aspect of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

© 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.