

Inspection Summary Report – January 2025

- ❖ St Colm's High School upholds the vision of **'Believe and Achieve'** with pupils and staff living out the values of **respect, faith, responsibility, and community**.
 - ❖ Most of the lessons are inclusive and well structured, with good teacher explanations, effective questioning and learning activities that are engaging.
 - ❖ The pupils are very welcoming, friendly and respectful. Their behaviour is exemplary; they are a great credit to their families and to the school.
 - ❖ The school is well placed towards creating a three-year school development plan (SDP), requiring stakeholder consultations, filling leadership vacancies, and connecting further senior leadership with middle managers, as well as to provide a structure for more distributed leadership and accountability for actions.
 - ❖ The school needs the support of the employing authority to resolve long-term staff absences in the best interests of the pupils. Additionally, in the near-term, mitigations around supporting temporary teachers to provide good quality lessons consistently are needed to ensure that no pupil falls behind in their learning.
 - ❖ The pupils' learning experiences and progression opportunities are enhanced through well-established collaborative networks with a wide range of community organisations and businesses.
 - ❖ The school promotes an ethos of inclusion, offering equality of opportunity and providing all pupils with the opportunity to learn and progress together.
 - ❖ Pupils are well supported and nurtured; they benefit from a range of curricular, enrichment and leadership opportunities, as well as appropriate interventions.
 - ❖ Pupils at Key Stage (KS) 3 and KS 4 access a suitably broad curriculum that enables them to progress and achieve well. At post-16 level, the number of subjects delivered in-house is restricted due to the number of pupils enrolled at this level.
 - ❖ The school embeds and celebrates a wide range of pupil successes, including achievements in teams, faith-based activities and the highly successful musical, 'Beauty and the Beast'.
 - ❖ At the time of the inspection, the evidence provided by the school demonstrates that the arrangements for child and adult protection align to the current statutory guidance.
- Areas for action:
- ❖ with the support of the employing authority, the school needs to resolve unacceptably long-term teacher absence and unfilled leadership posts, in the interest of the pupils; and
 - ❖ the need to develop further the capacity of postholders in carrying out well their leadership and management roles, in a distributed manner.

Going forward

- St Colm's High School's vision of '**Believe and Achieve**' underpins its life and work and the associated values of **faith, respect, responsibility and community** are lived out well by staff and pupils alike. The school is at the heart of its community and the pupils have a strong sense of belonging and purpose that develops them academically, spiritually and socially.
- Inspectors identified an aspect of highly effective practice from which others may learn. The aspect of practice which should be shared more widely is the value and use made of embedding sound links between the school and the community to enhance pupils' learning experiences.
- Through the district inspector, ETI will monitor the progress of St Colm's High School in addressing the areas for action as laid out in this report.