

## 10. ART AND DESIGN, AND MEDIA

**Performance Level:** Very Good

**Areas inspected: Further Education Provision in:**

- Full-time and part-time art and design and media courses at levels 2 and 3.

### CONTEXT

10.1 The College provides an appropriately broad range of full-time and part-time art and design and media courses up to and including level 3, which provide the learners with good opportunities to progress to higher education programmes and employment.

**The quality of the leadership and management is very good.**

10.2 The head of school provides very good strategic leadership, characterised by pro-active, well-informed decision making and effective self-evaluation leading to improvement. The management team has developed good collaborative working practices across the campuses and there is effective liaison and communication amongst and between staff and learners. The leadership recognises accurately the strengths and areas for improvement in the provision and the distributive nature of the leadership allows capacity to be built appropriately. Self-evaluation and quality improvement planning processes and associated actions to promote improvement are impacting positively on the quality of the teaching and learning. The staff are deployed very well in order to optimise their creative and technical expertise and industrial experience.

**The quality of the provision for learning is very good.**

10.3 The quality of teaching and learning is very good or better in most of the sessions observed; in the remainder it is good. The sessions are well-planned and include an appropriate range of teaching approaches, including effective one-to-one and small group guidance and support, purposeful and challenging practical work and excellent levels of technical guidance and support. There is a very good programme of visiting speakers, study visits and links with industry specialists and local businesses, which complement the taught programme and allow the learners to learn in real and purposeful contexts. There is outstanding guidance and support and the learners speak very highly of their tutors and of their learning experiences. There is an excellent focus on economic engagement and on taking opportunities to celebrate and share with others the learners' best work. Learners benefit from the College's creative industries workforce development forum which seeks to strengthen links with Northern Ireland's creative industries and engaging with initiatives such as the Armagh gaol project, the Spacecraft textile project and the floristry graphic design initiative.

**Achievements and standards are good.**

10.4 The learners are well-motivated and demonstrate a good range of relevant technical and transferrable skills, the development of which their tutors pro-actively promote. The learners develop very good information and communication technology (ICT) skills, in particular, and demonstrate high levels of confidence in their work. Over the last three years, retention rates across art, design and media programmes are very good (84%) and while there is a concern about a few areas of weaker retention rates, the school

management team has already identified this and are working with learners and staff to introduce remedial actions to improve the outcomes, particularly at level 3. The average achievement rate across the provision is good at 84%. The progression rate by the learners to employment or higher education programmes is excellent.

**Table of Achievements**

Course Type	Completion Year 2010/11			Completion Year 2011/12			Completion Year 2012/13			Three Year Average		
	Ret (%)	Ach (%)	Succ (%)	Ret (%)	Ach (%)	Succ (%)	Ret (%)	Ach (%)	Succ (%)	Ret (%)	Ach (%)	Succ (%)
Full-time Courses at Level 1	88	67	59	82	89	73	-	-	-	86	75	64
Full-time Courses at Level 2	83	85	70	87	91	79	83	84	69	84	87	73
Full-time Courses at Level 3	87	85	74	96	80	77	73	82	60	86	83	71
Part-time Courses at Level 3	69	86	59	73	100	73	38	100	38	66	89	59
Overall	83	84	70	92	83	77	74	83	62	84	84	70