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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

**Education and Training Inspectorate**

**Specialist School Baseline Inspection  
(Cohort 2)**

**Grosvenor Grammar School  
Belfast**

**January 2010**

## **SPECIALIST SCHOOL BASELINE INSPECTION OF GROSVENOR GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT5 6AX (141-0079)**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a baseline inspection as part of the above project in January 2008.

At that time the Inspectorate reported that the school had identified appropriate and measurable targets for improvement to demonstrate:

- that modern languages is an area of curricular strength, which has good levels of attainment and stable uptake;
- that through the very good strategic management of the specialist school status there is a shared understanding of how the strengths in modern languages have the potential to promote whole school improvement;
- coherence between the targets for modern languages and the whole school targets which are clearly linked to key priorities of the school development plan;
- how the school will use modern languages to develop existing and new language specific and cross-curricular links with other schools, Higher and Further Education Colleges and the wider community, including business and industry; and
- viable financial planning to allocate funding.

The Inspectorate continued to monitor the work of the school as part of the Specialist Schools' project. In September 2009, the school submitted a second annual report to the Department in which it indicated that although all of the whole-school targets had been met, some of the targets for the specialism had been missed, in particular, those for A\*-C at General Certificate of Secondary Education level.

As a result, the Inspectorate carried out a formal follow-up inspection on 14 January 2010 which has identified that good progress has been made in addressing the area for improvement identified. The school is taking appropriate measures to address the missed targets, which are focused on learning and teaching and on monitoring closely the progress of pupils. These measures include:

- the introduction of common assessment tasks to track pupil performance and identify those pupils who require further support;
- a peer mentoring system to provide pupils with additional language support;
- the flexible deployment of the language assistants to meet the needs of the pupils;
- the introduction of language awareness lessons to help develop the pupils' knowledge of language in general terms; and
- the flexibility in the timetabling arrangements within the modern languages department to facilitate the agreed intervention and improvement strategies.

The school has reviewed a number of specialist and whole-school targets set in their original bid based on data analysis to align these more closely to the abilities of the relevant year groups of pupils.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor closely the work of the school as part of the Specialist Schools' Programme.

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