



*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**

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

**Brownlow Integrated College  
Craigavon**

**May 2011**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BROWNLOW INTEGRATED COLLEGE, LURGAN, CO ARMAGH, BT65 5BS (525-0216)**

The standard inspection in October 2009 highlighted strengths in: the quality of the teaching which was good or better in almost two-thirds of the lessons observed; the support provided for pupils who are vulnerable and those at risk of marginalisation; the effective links with external agencies in supporting the personal and social needs of the pupils; and the high priority given by the Principal to the need to raise standards. The inspection identified the following key areas for improvement:

- to raise expectations and improve standards through more robust monitoring, evaluation and target-setting;
- to ensure that the strategic management of the pastoral and curriculum provision throughout the school meets the needs of the pupils more effectively; and
- to improve the overall learning and teaching, for example, through the dissemination of the good practice evident during the inspection.

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

- the reduction in one member of the teaching staff;
- the appointment of a pupil welfare officer and the development of a pupil council;
- an increased involvement by the school in the Craigavon Area Learning Community;
- a reduction in pupil suspensions by one-half;
- the introduction of a pupil mentoring scheme for year 11 pupils and a scheme of study support for year 12 pupils;
- the review of the role of senior leaders;
- a wide range of opportunities for internal and external staff development, including the regular and effective support by the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Southern Education and Library Board; and
- the creation of a cross-curricular information and communication technology working group.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits, and a follow-up inspection in May 2011.

The Board of Governors responded positively to the original inspection report, identifying action plans to address the areas for improvement which were of a good quality.

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

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

- the positive impact of the mentoring scheme on the pupils' attitudes to learning and achievement;
- the good strategic management of the pastoral curriculum to support the needs of the pupils more effectively;
- the good opportunities for appropriate, targeted staff development, including the dissemination of good practice;
- the more robust monitoring, evaluation and the setting of targets for improvement; and
- the more strategic role of the senior leadership team, including the clear links with middle managers, focused appropriately on bringing about improvement.

The remaining areas for improvement are:

- to raise the standards achieved by the pupils at General Certificate in Secondary Education (GCSE) level, in particular, the proportion of them achieving at least five GCSE subjects at grades A\* to C, including English and mathematics; and
- to ensure that the learning experiences for all of the pupils are consistently good or better.

## **CONCLUSION**

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision.

The school has demonstrated evidence of improvement but significant areas of improvement in the standards achieved by the pupils and also in the quality of some of the learning and teaching remain to be addressed, if the needs of all the pupils are to be met effectively.

The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

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