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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**

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

**Christian Brothers' School  
Belfast**

**December 2010**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT11 8BW, (123-0146)**

The standard inspection of Christian Brothers' School, Belfast in March 2009, highlighted strengths in the school's provision that included: the good behaviour of the pupils; the good or better quality of the learning and teaching in almost two-thirds of the lessons observed; the commitment of the staff; the innovative development of a wide range of courses in vocational subjects; the very good pastoral care provision; and, the strong and effective leadership provided by the Principal which had resulted in a recent significant improvement in standards.

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

- to develop the School Development planning process, including the improved monitoring and evaluation of a broader range of qualitative and quantitative information, in order to make further and necessary improvements in standards, particularly literacy and numeracy; and
- to share and develop across the school, more effective learning and teaching strategies which will engage and motivate all of the pupils.

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

- the systematic and rigorous use of internal and external data by the senior leadership team at a whole-school level, and by staff in all departments at a subject level, to set challenging targets, and to monitor and evaluate the pupils' progress;
- the continued hard work and commitment of the Principal, senior leadership team and staff which is focused strongly on embedding a culture and ethos of self-evaluation;
- the dissemination of good practice through, for example, the implementation of "sharing of good practice seminars" and use of lesson observation within departments; and
- the major restructuring and reallocation of roles and responsibilities, focused well on ensuring effective arrangements for self-evaluation leading to improvement.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out four monitoring visits, and then a final follow-up inspection on the 10 December 2010.

The action plans produced by the school in response to the inspection findings were of a very good quality.

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

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

- the School Development planning process is very good and, in particular, there is clear evidence of the very good use of a wide range of quantitative and benchmarked information for target setting, and for the monitoring and evaluation of improvement;
- the significant further improvement in standards achieved, both at a whole-school level across departments, and in English, mathematics and science in particular; and
- the more effective sharing and development within subject departments of learning and teaching strategies to engage and motivate all of the pupils.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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