



*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

**Cookstown High School
Co Tyrone**

June 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF COOKSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL, CO TYRONE, BT80 8PQ (521-0230)

The standard inspection in February 2009 highlighted strengths in the pupils' behaviour and attitudes, the quality of the teaching, the standards of attainment at General Certificate of Education, the commitment of the staff, the quality of pastoral care and the support for the pupils with moderate learning difficulties in the learning support centre.

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

- the establishment of a more effective process for school development planning and improvement which is underpinned by effective and considerate consultation and communication with staff, parents, pupils and Board of Governors (governors) in line with the statutory guidance provided by the Education (School Development Plans) Regulations NI 2005 Order; and
- the need to ensure the continued professional development of senior and middle managers in order that they have the necessary skills to lead, manage, monitor and evaluate the implementation of their responsibilities throughout the school.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place:

- the training in senior and middle management provided by the Southern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service;
- the appointment of an acting head of department for English; and
- the reconstitution of the governors.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up inspection visits and a follow-up inspection on 14 June 2011.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of very good quality. The school development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings and meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

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

- the very effective leadership by the senior management in addressing the areas for improvement;
- the whole-school and systematic engagement with the improvement process in response to the inspection;
- the well-thought out process of consultation with staff, pupils, parents and governors which informs well school development planning;
- the well-planned programme of staff development which has clarified roles and responsibilities to enable senior and middle leaders to carry out their duties to a high standard; and
- the considered approach to broadening the curricular provision, in particular at key stage 4, to meet the needs of all of the pupils.

CONCLUSION

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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