



*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

**Jordanstown School
Newtownabbey**

June 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF JORDANSTOWN SCHOOL, NEWTOWNABBEY, CO ANTRIM, BT37 0QE (334-0002)

The standard inspection in Jordanstown School in January 2008 highlighted strengths in, for example, the high level of staff commitment to the needs of the pupils, the very good quality of the teaching throughout the school, the high level of expertise and skills of the staff in relation to sensory impairment, and the support, involvement and commitment of the members of the Board of Governors to the future development of the school.

The inspection also identified the need:

- to develop further a systematic, formal and documented approach to the process of monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching;
- to improve the opportunities for pupils to learn alongside their peers in mainstream settings; and
- to develop a long-term, strategic view of the role of the school and the advisory and support service.

In the interval since the inspection, there have been three teacher redundancies and a new school build which resulted in a high level of disruption to the school during the time of the building work, as well as to the postponement of the follow-up inspection. The new school building has been in operation from December 2010. Since the original inspection in January 2008, the district inspector has carried out four school visits, including two interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection on 15 June 2011.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality. The school's development plan had 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 school has developed links with a number of local schools and with the Northern Regional College through the local area learning community, facilitating opportunities for the pupils from Jordanstown School to work alongside their peers in mainstream settings; and
- the school is developing its Outreach Service for Visual Impairment which involves two full-time teachers, and recognises the need to develop an appropriate action plan for further future development.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school remains satisfactory. The school has made a start to monitoring and evaluating the quality of the provision but this remains a significant area for improvement if the needs of all the learners are to be met effectively.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will carry out a further follow-up inspection within 12 months and a report will be published.

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