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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 Second Follow-up Inspection

**Newtownbreda High School
Belfast**

November 2010

A SECOND FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF NEWTOWNBREDA HIGH SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT8 6PY (421-0183)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a first follow-up inspection (FUI) on 4 and 5 of March 2009 of the areas for improvement set out in a standard inspection report of November 2006. The FUI in 2009 highlighted improvements since 2006 including the implementation of effective strategies to promote good behaviour in the circulation and outdoor areas and the good use made of quantitative data, such as Year 11 information system to monitor standards. The outcome of the FUI was satisfactory but it identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to further improve standards in particular those achieved at key stage (KS) 4; and
- the need to monitor and implement strategies to address the standards achieved by girls.

In the interval since the FUI in 2009 there has been:

- a slight increase in the number of pupils requiring additional learning support;
- a slight increase in the number of pupils with English as an additional language;
- no improvement in the percentage of pupils gaining A*-C in five or more subjects at General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) from the previous year and is currently at 35% and remains well below the Northern Ireland (NI) average for similar non-selective schools;
- a further slight increase from 18% to 20% in the percentage of pupils gaining A*-C in five or more subjects at GCSE including English and mathematics; however, this remains well below the NI average for similar non-selective schools; and
- an effective analysis of comparative performance data between girls and boys.

The following actions which affect the work of the school have taken place, mainly with effect from September 2010:

- two new vice-principals have been appointed with responsibility for pastoral care and curriculum development;
- two new heads of department have been appointed in mathematics and religious education;
- the appointment of a part-time learning support teacher;
- the classroom assistants have received training in Linguistic Phonics;
- positive behaviour is being promoted through the newly formed Pupil Forum and the adoption of a new rewards system;
- an attendance policy has been put in place; and
- a more rigorous system for tracking individual performance is being implemented.

The Inspectorate carried out a second FUI on 4 and 5 of November 2010.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the FUI findings in March 2009 was of a good quality and the school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education (DE).

CONCLUSION

Satisfactory progress has been made in the some of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection; however, the percentage of pupils gaining A*-C in five of more subjects at GCSE is inadequate.

The following are important improvements since the standard inspection:

- a recent reduction in the number of suspensions;
- a slight improvement in the rate of attendance (for example year 8 attendance has improved by almost 3% to currently just over 91%);
- the effective use of internal and external data to implement a more rigorous system of tracking of individual pupils and target setting to raise standards for all of the pupils; and
- improvement in literacy scores among those pupils receiving additional support through the classroom assistants who have received training in Linguistic Phonics.

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 some evidence of improvement but significant areas for improvement in standards and teaching and in leadership and management remain to be addressed if the needs of all the learners are to be met effectively. These are:

- the need to further improve standards including, in particular, those achieved at KS4; and
- the need for management at all levels to ensure that the outcomes from the recent whole school tracking system impact effectively on classroom practice and lead to significant and sustained improvement.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement, including a third follow-up inspection which will take place in due course.

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