



*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

**Orangefield High School
Belfast**

November 2013

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ORANGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT5 6AW (121-0266)

Orangefield High School was originally inspected in April 2011 when the provision was evaluated as inadequate; the school entered the formal intervention process in May 2011. The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection (FUI) in October 2012 when the quality of the provision remained inadequate¹.

There has been a development proposal process in relation to this school since December 2012 which has still not been concluded. This has created a period of uncertainty for the governors, staff and pupils over this period.

In the interval since the FUI in October 2012, the following changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- in partnership with local post-primary schools and under the guidance of the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) Curriculum Advisory and Support Service, the school made adjustments to the year 11 curriculum to anticipate the need for a smooth transition for the pupils to neighbouring schools, which was consequently delayed;
- the enrolment has decreased from 247 and currently stands at 85 (with no pupils enrolled in years 8, 11 and 13); and
- staffing has been reduced, by eight teachers and seven classroom assistants, to a total of 14 teachers and one classroom assistant.

The improvements since October 2012 include:

- an increase in the pupils' level of attendance from 83% to 89% which is just below the Northern Ireland average;
- a rise in the GCSE mathematics outcomes at A*-C from 13% to 31%; and
- an increase in the proportion of pupils attaining five GCSEs at grades A*-E from 40% to 70%.

In 2013, only 18% of the pupils attained five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, and 10% attained five or more GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A*-C; these results remain considerably below the Northern Ireland average for similar non-selective schools and are therefore still unsatisfactory.

Importantly, all of the pupils were entered for five or more GCSEs and the pupils who completed the small number of vocational subjects² on offer achieved high levels of success in these subjects. In contrast, outcomes in almost all of the individual subjects at KS4 and post-16 remain too low; in particular, the poor attainment in GCSE English impacts significantly on the overall standards that the pupils attain.

In the lessons observed during the follow-up inspection, the behaviour of most of the pupils was good and the quality of the teaching observed was satisfactory or good.

¹See the areas for improvement reported in the Report of an Inspection in April 2011 and the Report of a Follow-up Inspection in October 2012 for further details.

² Occupational studies at KS4 and information and communication technology at KS4 and post-16.

Owing to the context, to the significant reduction in staffing, and matters associated with the development proposal, the school leadership has not been in a position to ameliorate the main areas for improvement. Consequently, there remains a need to:

- improve the curriculum provision, which is imbalanced at KS4 because of changes made (in the circumstances described above) which proved to be premature, and unsatisfactory at post-16; and
- bring about sustained improvement in the standards that the pupils achieve in public examinations, particularly in five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics.

Overall, the quality of education provided by the school remains inadequate.

ETI will continue to monitor the work of the school and review planned inspection arrangements pending the decision regarding the development proposal.

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