



*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**

October 2012

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

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a standard inspection of Orangefield High School in the week of 4 April 2011 and as a result, the school entered the formal intervention process on 10 May 2011. The inspection identified the need for improvement in a number of key areas. These included the need to improve the quality of the leadership and management of the school's improvement process; to address the inadequacies of the Key Stage (4) and post-16 curriculum and to improve the standards attained by the pupils in almost all aspects of their work and in particular, the standards they achieve in public examinations.

An interim follow-up visit (IFUV) was carried out by the ETI on 24 March 2012 and identified that the school was beginning to address the key issues for improvement identified in the original inspection report.

During the IFUV, a representative of the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Belfast Education and Library Board reported to the ETI on the nature and extent of the support provided to the school in the interval since the original inspection. The Principal and the Chair of Governors reported that they were satisfied with the level of support provided.

A follow-up inspection was carried out on 22 and 23 October 2012.

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

- a new head of literacy has been appointed;
- the senior leadership team (SLT) has been restructured; and
- a sub-committee of the Board of Governors (the education committee) has been established to monitor, on a regular basis, the progress being made in addressing the areas for improvement.

The most important improvements that have taken place since the standard inspection in April 2011 are outlined below:

- a comprehensive system for tracking the pupils' progress in a range of aspects of their work, including attendance and assessment outcomes, has been developed and implemented across the school. This system has enabled more effective targeting of the pupils in need of the intervention strategies, including mentoring;
- the work undertaken in improving the quality of the Careers Education, Advice, Information and Guidance is good. The pupils interviewed now have a better understanding of the career pathways available to them;
- the vice-principal has led work with the heads of departments who are planning, implementing and monitoring more effectively the provision for teaching and learning; and
- the SLT, in partnership with the governors' education committee, provide an effective challenge function to the school's improvement work.

The remaining areas for improvement are:

- the overall attendance of the pupils, which, despite some improvement, is well below the NI average;
- the curriculum provision at KS4, which remains inadequate and the provision for the pupils at post-16 level which is unsatisfactory; and
- the lack of a sustained improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSE subjects grades A*-C (11.43%) and in the number achieving five or more GCSE grades at A*-C when English and mathematics (9.09%) are included.

The standards achieved by the pupils in English and mathematics in particular, and the attainments in public examinations more generally, are inadequate.

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

ETI will carry out a further follow-up inspection within 12 months and a report will be published.

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