



*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

**St Columban's College
Kilkeel**

May 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST COLUMBAN'S COLLEGE, KILKEEL, BT34 4NL (523-0059)

The standard inspection of St Columban's College in January 2009 highlighted strengths in the Principal's commitment to raising standards in all aspects of the life and work of the school, the quality of the teaching and the commitment of the teachers to supporting the needs of the pupils.

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

- to review and clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the senior and middle management tiers to develop further their effectiveness and accountability;
- to improve leadership and management at all levels in order to improve the management of the curriculum, the quality of the provision and the standards achieved by the pupils; and
- to establish rigorous, systematic monitoring and evaluation procedures across the school.

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

- the school has made very good use of the effective support provided by the link officers of the Curriculum Advice and Support Service and the Employing Authority;
- the refurbishment of the careers and home economics accommodation; and
- the appointment of a Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance co-ordinator.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out one monitoring visit and a follow-up inspection on 28 May 2010.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality.

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.

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

- within the constraints presented by the school's declining roll, a review of the roles and responsibilities of the senior management team (SMT) has been completed;
- a wide range of appropriate strategies to improve communication and accountability has been implemented across the school; and

- the strong focus on self-evaluation and quality improvement, led effectively by the Principal and SMT has been introduced, including the analysis and interpretation of quantitative and qualitative data, to monitor and evaluate the progress and attainment of the pupils.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this organisation is now good. The organisation has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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