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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Area-Based Inspection

Bunscoil Phobal Feirste
Belfast

March 2009

Mr J Mac Seacais
Chairperson of the Board of Governors
Bunscoil Phobal Feirste
11 Rosgoill Park
BELFAST
BT11 9QS

May 2009

Dear Mr Mac Seacais

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an area-based inspection in the West Belfast area. The main aim of this work was to evaluate the quality of the strategic planning, the coherence in the learning experiences and the transitional arrangements for education and training across the area.

As part of this work Bunscoil Phobal Feirste was one of a sample of organisations visited.

Individual organisations had oral feedback from the Inspectors and the following short statement is a written record of the key findings.

Copies of this report will not be sent to parents by the Department, although the organisation may send out copies if it so wishes.

In line with our usual practice, the report will be published on the Department of Education website, as will a composite report of the findings from the area-based inspection. A copy of a specific report, or the composite report, may be obtained from Inspection Services Branch.

Yours sincerely

ELIZABETH WELLS (MRS)
Inspection Services Branch

AREA-BASED INSPECTION - WEST BELFAST AREA 2009: STRATEGIC PLANNING, COHERENCE IN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an area-based inspection in Bunscoil Phobal Feirste during March 2009.

The strengths and areas for improvement were identified as follows.

Strengths include:

- the high quality of pastoral provision;
- the good quality arrangements for meeting the needs of the children who have special educational needs;
- the good transition arrangements from pre-school into year 1, from class to class in the school, and from year 7 into post-primary schools;
- the wide range of high quality extra-curricular activities and experiences provided for the children;
- the proactive actions of the school in establishing and developing links with important and connected external agencies, and with the parents; and
- the strong commitment of the parents to the life of the school and their involvement in their children's education.

Areas for improvement are the need to:

- review aspects of the school development plan (SDP) to meet fully the requirements of the School Development Plans Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005; and
- maintain a record of child safeguarding complaints to be completed, if required, which the Chair and vice Chair review annually.

The overall composite report for the area-based inspection raises some important recurring areas for improvement. While these are not applicable in all the individual organisations, they are nevertheless important to address across the West Belfast area.

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