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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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*Providing Inspection Services for*  
**Department of Education**  
**Department for Employment and Learning**  
**Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Area-Based Inspection**

**St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School**  
**Belfast**

**March 2009**

## **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 St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Belfast during March 2009.

The strengths and areas for improvement were identified as follows.

### **Strengths include:**

- the quality of the learning experiences which ranged from good to very good in a majority of the lessons observed;
- the good quality of care and support provided for the pupils;
- the very good range of informal learning experiences used to support and extend the pupils' learning;
- the good induction arrangements, particularly for the year 8 and year 13 pupils;
- the very good support of the parents and governors for the work of the school within and beyond the local community; and
- the commitment of the Principal, ably supported by the senior management team, to the ongoing work and life of the school.

### **Areas for improvement are the need to:**

- raise further the standards at all levels in order for the pupils to reach their full potential and access appropriate progression opportunities, as identified appropriately by the school; and
- develop further the links with the feeder primary schools, and establish more effective arrangements for the transfer of information on standards for pupils transferring to and from the school, in order to ensure the smooth transition and progression in their learning.

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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