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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Corpus Christi College
Belfast**

January 2008

SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (SSP) FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, BELFAST (123-0262)

The SSP follow-up inspection, carried out in 2007 highlighted a number of strengths which included the leadership of the Principal and the senior management team, the careers guidance for the pupils, particularly in relation to the vocational programmes, the curriculum support provided by the Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB), the fewer number of pupils leaving the college without formal qualifications and the developments within the college's health and well-being programme. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the college needs to develop further and disseminate more widely the useful approaches made in some subject departments in the use of the educational data to identify those pupils who are having difficulty with their learning and, once they have been identified to develop practical ways of raising their level of attainment; and
- to share and disseminate the good learning and teaching strategies evident in some subject areas across all departments.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection in January 2008. In the interval since the inspection, the following action, which affects the work of the college, has taken place:

- an acting-Principal is in post due to the secondment of the Principal;
- four new co-ordinators have been appointed in key curricular areas;
- detailed action plans have been developed to address the areas identified for improvement; and
- the college has gained a Full Service Network status.

The college has made satisfactory progress in improving aspects of its provision and the following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the SSP follow-up inspection:

- the senior management team, with the support of the BELB, has produced insightful action plans to guide development in the areas identified for improvement;
- the good start made in disseminating a wide variety of educational data across curriculum and pastoral areas to improve the quality of the pupils' educational experiences;
- the relevant staff development programme, supported by the BELB, to assist progression in appropriate key areas;

- the significant improvements in external examination results, particularly at key stage 3 and in a minority of subjects in the General Certificate of Education (GCSE);
- the enthusiasm and dedication of the co-ordinators in the key areas to support the pupils in both their learning and personal development; and
- the positive attitudes of the pupils with whom discussions were held during the inspection, to the life and work of the college.

The areas which need further improvement include:

- to continue to develop and utilise the educational data available to promote overall college improvement; and
- to share and disseminate the good learning and teaching strategies evident in the planning, across all subject areas.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the college to ensure that the improvements which are needed are implemented.

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