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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Garvagh High School
Coleraine**

May 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF GARVAGH HIGH SCHOOL, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY, BT51 5AE (321-0013)

The focused inspection in March 2006 highlighted strengths in the ethos, the quality of teaching and the strategic leadership and management of the Principal. The inspection identified the following areas for development:

- the need to put in place clear procedures to monitor and evaluate all developments;
- the need to use more effectively and systematically the data gathered to bring about improvement in the pupils' attainment; and
- the need to clarify further the roles and responsibilities within the school.

In the interval since the inspection, the actions which affect the work of the school include:

- a programme for monitoring and rewarding pupils' progress has been introduced;
- the teachers' awareness of the available performance data has been raised;
- new procedures for monitoring attendance have been introduced;
- a Learning and Teaching Policy has been developed;
- the roles of responsibility holders have been reviewed and appointments to the positions of pastoral care and numeracy co-ordinators have been made; and
- the views of pupils, parents and staff have been sought on various aspects of the school's work, for example, the transition arrangements for new pupils.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 19 May 2008, following monitoring visits in the interim period.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- the attendance has improved;
- the performance data in English is being used effectively;
- aspects of the Learning and Teaching Policy, for example the sharing of learning objectives with the pupils, are embedded in classroom practice; and
- effective thematic approaches to the learning in year 8 are being used.

During the follow-up inspection, all of the teaching observed had many good features and in a majority of the lessons the quality of teaching was consistently good.

Since the inspection, the school has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection and other areas identified in the school development plan (2007-08).

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period has contributed significantly to the improvement made, and has helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through self-evaluation, the school has demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are further developed.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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