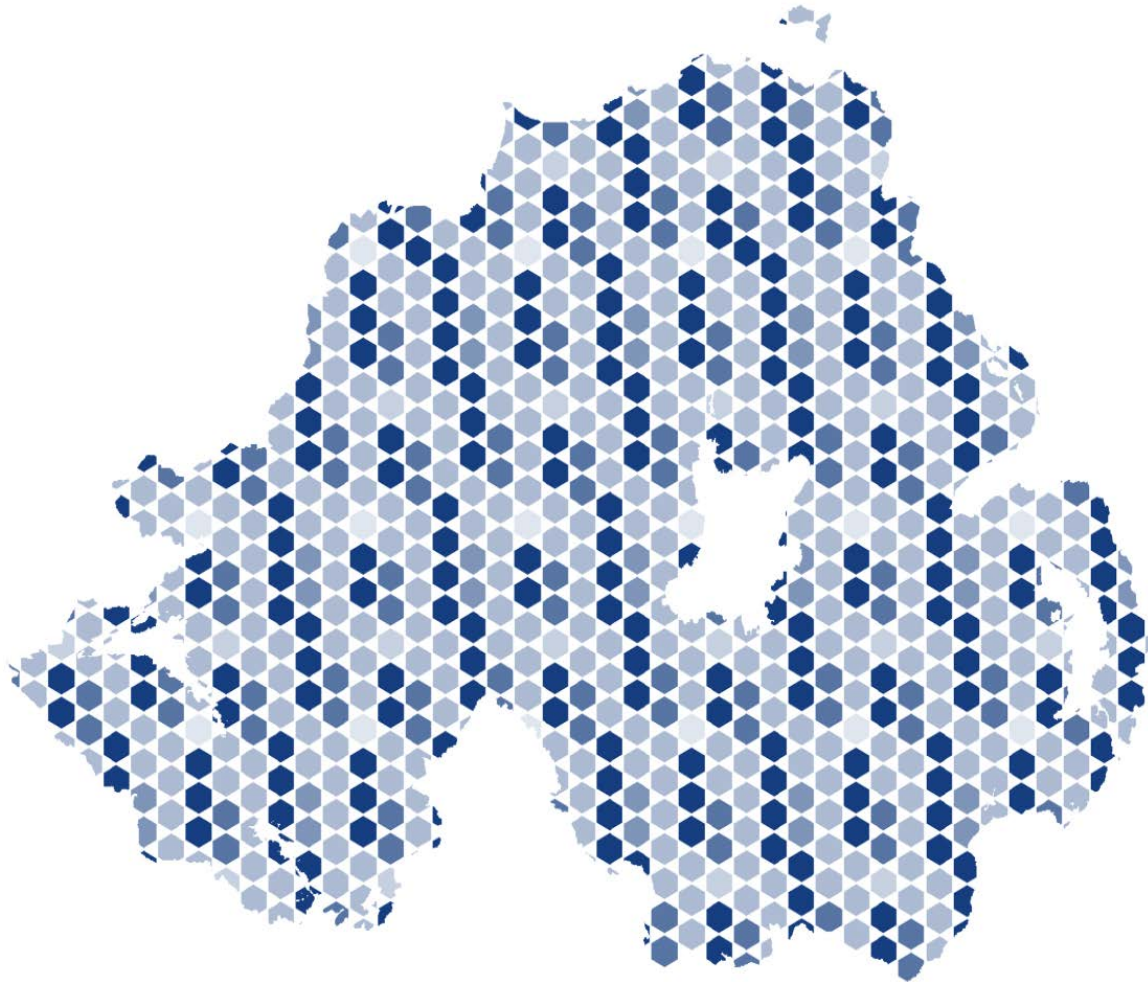


# POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Laurelhill Community College,  
Lisburn, County Antrim

Co-educational, 11-18 controlled, non-selective school

Report of a Follow-up Inspection  
in January 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
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CUSTOMER  
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EXCELLENCE



## **A THIRD FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LAURELHILL COMMUNITY COLLEGE LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT28 2UH (421-0201)**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a second follow-up inspection of Laurelhill Community College in September 2015<sup>1</sup> and the organisation was required to address urgently the significant areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners<sup>2</sup>.

The main areas for improvement were the need:

- to improve the quality of learning and teaching;
- to raise the standards attained by the pupils in public examinations and in particular to address the standards attained by boys and pupils with additional learning needs;
- to evaluate the impact of the curricular changes made and to strengthen the provision of careers education, information, advice and guidance in order to ensure that the interests, aptitudes and aspirations of the pupils are being provided for more effectively; and
- for management at all levels, and the governors, to ensure that the processes of self-evaluation, target-setting and the intervention strategies are rigorously monitored and evaluated to ensure that improvement is effected consistently across the whole school.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in November 2016 and a follow-up inspection in January 2017.

The Department of Education acknowledged the positive response that the school had made, and planned to make, with support from the Education Authority, regarding the areas for improvement identified in the second follow-up inspection report.

In the interval since the second follow-up inspection, the following changes and actions which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- the senior leadership has been restructured and each member has taken forward a coordinated set of intervention strategies, to effect improvement in the learning outcomes for pupils;
- the principal has carried out classroom observations to monitor and evaluate the quality of learning and teaching;
- a school dashboard of progress measures has been collated to inform the governors about whole-school improvement; and
- the school reported that it had received very good support from the Education Authority in this interim period.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/follow-up-inspection-laurelhill-community-college-lisburn.PDF>

<sup>2</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as inadequate is now reported as having to address urgently the significant areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

## **Key Findings**

The quality of leadership and management is now good. A cohesive, effective senior leadership team has been established and is leading well the improvement work. The governors are well-informed about the priorities for school improvement and are actively involved in making key decisions. They provide good levels of support for the senior leaders, but also challenge to good effect as appropriate.

Accountability arrangements have been enhanced, and internal and external data is being used effectively to: improve target-setting within most subjects; evaluate the provision for learning; and underpin and effect improvement. It will be important that all staff develop further this approach to the monitoring and evaluation of curriculum planning, classroom practice and assessment to ensure that the interests, aptitudes and aspirations of all of the pupils are being met.

As a result of the range of improvement work, the standards attained by the pupils in public examinations at key stage 4 and post-16 have improved and are now in line with or above the corresponding Northern Ireland (NI) averages.

The provision for mathematics is now good. All of the learning and teaching observed was good or better; one-half of the lessons were very good. The action planning process is coherent and underpins to good effect the improvement work. The department is led well, including systematic arrangements for the monitoring and evaluation of the provision. The standards attained by the pupils are in line with the NI average for similar schools.

The senior leaders are much better informed about the effectiveness of planning, learning, teaching and assessment. A majority of the lessons observed during the follow-up inspection were good or better in promoting and progressing the pupils' learning. Around one-third of the lessons observed, however, had important areas for improvement in progressing learning and this should be prioritised by the school for continued action.

The effectiveness of the provision for careers education, information, advice and guidance across the curriculum needs to be monitored more rigorously to ensure that all pupils are well enough informed about career options and pathways that are the most appropriate for them.

The broader curriculum offer, which has been implemented successfully, needs to be embedded further and fully evaluated to ensure it effects improvement.

## **Overall Effectiveness**

Laurelhill Community College needs to address important areas for improvement. The follow-up inspection has identified the following areas for improvement:

- to sustain and continue to raise standards;
- continue to focus on raising the quality and impact of learning and teaching;
- to develop further the school's approach to the monitoring and evaluation of curriculum planning, classroom practice, assessment arrangements and careers education to ensure that the interests, aptitudes and aspirations of all of the pupils are being met.

Further action will be considered by the Department of Education.

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