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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Orangefield High School
Belfast

May 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ORANGEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT5 6AW (121-0266)

The standard inspection in November 2006 highlighted strengths in the good working relationships, the pastoral support, the care and commitment of the staff, the sound and purposeful teaching in a majority of the lessons observed, the good support of the Board of Governors and the effective links with the community, including opportunities provided for the pupils beyond the classroom to broaden the learning experiences. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to strengthen the process by which the school management team monitors and evaluates the standards of the pupils' work and their attainment in public examinations;
- to make effective use of internal and external assessment data at middle management level to set realistic targets in order to improve the standards achieved by the pupils;
- to widen the learning and teaching strategies in order to engage and involve the pupils in the learning process and to meet more fully the needs and abilities of all of the pupils; and
- to review current curricular arrangements in order to provide a more suitable vocational and occupational programme that is matched closely to the pupils' needs.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place, for example:

- the Principal has taken on a teaching commitment of two days per week;
- a new special educational needs co-ordinator has been appointed;
- there has been a steady increase in the number of pupils for whom English is not the first language and the school has appointed a co-ordinator for English as an Additional Language;
- middle management has been restructured to include a new Head of pastoral care and two new Heads of years;
- the school has been involved in the Belfast Education and Library Board's (BELB) Raising Achievement in Literacy and Numeracy initiatives;
- the school has been selected to participate in the BELB Achieving Belfast initiative; and
- a disused teaching block has been demolished and a new dining centre has been located close to the main building.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out monitoring visits in April and December 2007, and a follow-up inspection on 30 May 2008. The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the effective restructuring of roles and responsibilities to meet the needs of the school and the continued commitment of the staff to the pupils;
- the good progress in gathering and recording data and the good start made to using performance data, particularly to inform improvement in literacy and to target more effectively those pupils who require additional help with their learning;
- the good range of teaching strategies to engage and involve the pupils more in the learning process; and
- the more consultative approach, to reviewing the current curricular arrangements involving pupils, parents and other educational establishments.

The main areas which require further improvement includes the need to:

- use more effectively the data collected at all levels to track progress, to inform planning, learning and teaching and to set targets for improvement in order to raise the standards achieved by the pupils.

Good progress has been made in some of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection but some areas still require improvement. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

The school's progress in the continuing areas for improvement will be followed-up by the District Inspector.

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