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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



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

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Rathfriland High School
Newry**

March 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF RATHFRILAND HIGH SCHOOL, NEWRY, BT34 5PZ (521-0127)

The standard inspection of Rathfriland High School in October 2007 highlighted strengths in the quality of the pastoral care provision and the good results achieved by the pupils in public examinations. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further a culture of self-evaluation and critical reflective practice to promote the improvement of learning and teaching across the school; and
- to strengthen the school's strategic planning and development through the introduction of more rigorous monitoring and evaluation at all levels.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits, and a follow-up inspection in March 2009.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality.

Very good progress has been made in all of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The most important improvements include:

- the introduction of a range of well-considered strategies to improve the effectiveness of communication between staff and between the school and parents;
- the very good progress made to establish the analysis and interpretation of performance data as a key process in informing target setting; and
- the extensive effective staff development undertaken by the senior management team and staff to develop their knowledge and understanding of self-evaluation and development planning processes to promote whole school improvement, and their capacity to contribute to whole school improvement.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture contributed significantly to the improvement made and helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that through effective self-evaluation, the school demonstrated clear evidence of improvement.

Very good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. In the areas inspected, the quality of management and leadership provided by the school is now good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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