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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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*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**

**Regent House School  
Newtownards**

**October 2008**

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF REGENT HOUSE SCHOOL,  
NEWTOWNARDS, CO DOWN, BT23 4QA (441-0063)**

The standard inspection of Regent House School, Newtownards in November 2006 highlighted many strengths including: the caring and supportive ethos in the school; the examples of high quality teaching observed; the good leadership provided by the Principal and the encouraging start made in using the process of self-evaluation to promote improvement in all aspects of the work of the school.

The inspection identified the following key areas for improvement:

- the need to raise further the standards achieved by the pupils in external examinations, particularly at General Certificate of Education (GCE) Advanced (A) level;
- the need to develop further the professional links between senior and middle management and the teachers; and
- the need to determine management and teaching roles and responsibilities for the progressive development of an appropriate range of information and communication technology (ICT) skills for all pupils.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions, which affect the work of the school, have taken place:

- the new Principal, who took up post in September 2007, is leading a strong improvement agenda;
- a new senior management team (SMT) is in place and changes in middle management have occurred;
- a useful school development plan and associated action plan have been drawn up; and
- a significant number of new teachers have been appointed.

As part of the follow-up inspection process the school provided summary reports supported by an appropriate range of evidence on actions taken since the inspection in November 2006.

In October 2008, the Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an inspection of the developments and the progress made since the inspection.

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

- the examination results in General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) and GCE have improved; for example, the GCSE results obtained in nearly all subjects were within, or above, five percentage points of the Northern Ireland (NI) averages for selective schools, and the percentage of pupils obtaining at least 3 GCE grades at A - C has increased from 59% in 2004 to 66% in 2008. The school has identified the need to improve further the GCE results using the benchmarking data

available. More robust procedures for monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching are in place; all departments are using target-setting and the appropriate tracking of the pupils' performance to improve the standards that they achieve;

- the Principal and SMT have put in place structures to strengthen communication and to encourage leadership at all levels in the school, for example, the Head of Department Forum meets regularly to share good practice in learning and teaching; and
- the school has made good progress in developing the pupils' ICT skills in years 8 to 10. The recently appointed ICT co-ordinator is working effectively with a number of departments to ensure that ICT is embedded in their subjects. The sixth form pupils now have greater choice of computing/ICT courses at GCE A level and the uptake in these subjects has improved substantially.

Good progress has been made in the areas 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 school's commitment to improvement and the effectiveness of its action in response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self improvement.

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