St Columba's College, Portaferry

Inspection Summary Report - December 2024

- The staff enable the pupils to live out well the school's aims to grow spiritually strong, to be confident in their personal worth, as active members of their community and in showing care and consideration for others.
- The pupils appreciate their school's family ethos where they know each other and their teachers well.
- The pupils are welcomed and valued for their uniqueness and understand their collective responsibility to welcome others.
- Through the long-established shared education partnership, the pupils learn to respect differing identities in Northern Ireland.
- The pupils enjoy sharing and celebrating their personal successes and that of others.
- The quality of planning, teaching and assessment for successful learning requires development consistently across the curriculum.
- A particular strength of the provision is the well-considered work to improve the literacy provision and the carefully planned and progressive preventative curriculum, including the provision for relationships and sexuality education (RSE).
- The needs of the pupils with SEN are not met consistently well in the classroom.
- For a minority of the pupils, the curriculum offer at key stage (KS) 4 narrows the potential options for progression.
- At the time of the inspection, the evidence provided by the school demonstrates that the arrangements for child protection align to the current statutory guidance. The ETI will monitor the progress of the school in addressing the following area for action: given the reconstitution of the board of governors, ensure that training requirements are completed.

Areas for action:

- to ensure the school's development planning process is informed by robust self-evaluation of qualitative and quantitative information, the pupils' work and observations of learning and teaching to improve the consistency of the quality of planning, teaching and assessment for successful learning across the curriculum; and
- to review the effectiveness of the curriculum for all, and the suitability and uptake of the qualifications at KS 4 for all pupils to ensure that they progress successfully to the next stage of education, training or employment.

Going forward

- The staff enable the pupils to live out well the school's aims to grow spiritually strong, to be confident in their personal worth, as active members of their community and in showing care and consideration for others.
- The inspection has highlighted areas for action, as detailed in the report, which now need to be addressed. St Columba's College will require sustained external support to help it address the areas for action. There will be a progress inspection.



