St Joseph's Boys' High School, Newry

Inspection Summary Report - December 2024

- The school's vision permeates all aspects of school life; the school motto, "Vir Justus," embodies the concept of being a just, honourable man, as reflected in the life of St Joseph, is embraced fully and lived out by the pupils.
- The pupils are respectful and welcoming, they demonstrate empathy and social justice through acts of kindness to others; the senior pupils develop leadership skills through planning and organising the school's charitable work.
- The planning, teaching and assessment were mostly effective, pupils benefit from well-planned opportunities to learn together in purposeful, real-life contexts linked to their interests. The school has identified the need to develop further strategies to engage the pupils in their learning more consistently across the school.
- The nurturing and inclusive learning environment throughout the school supports well the pupils' health and wellbeing; equipping the pupils to make informed choices, reduce any potential risk and keep themselves and others safe.

Most of the pupils attain very well at GCSE level; the school is focused appropriately on improving further the number of pupils attaining five GCSE qualifications (or equivalent) at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, to support all pupils to progress successfully to education, training or employment.

- The whole school community is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion as reflected in the work to meet the needs of pupils who have special educational needs and those who require additional assistance with aspects of their learning and development.
- The pupils in the learning support centre (LSC) benefit from the opportunities provided to develop their personal and social skills and learn well when involved in active, practical activities.
- The curriculum is flexible and responsive to the pupils needs; the pupils benefit from innovative, creative partnerships with local

businesses that support them to transition successfully to the next stage of their learning or employment.

- The well-planned careers education, information, advice and guidance, (CEIAG) including purposeful work-related learning at key stage (KS) 4 supports the pupils well in making informed decisions about future pathways matched to their interests and abilities.
 - Staff professional learning (SPL) is aligned well to the priorities in the one-year interim school development plan (SDP) and is having a positive impact on the pupil's learning experiences.
- 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.

Area for action:

to develop further and embed successful strategies on how boys learn best across the school, to bring about a greater consistency in the quality of learning experiences provided for all the pupils.

Going forward

St Joseph's Boys' School is achieving its vision successfully in "building positive relationships based on mutual respect." The staff strive to provide "quality learning for all" in an inclusive environment, where the pupils are valued and nurtured to become decent, "just and honourable" young men.

Inspectors identified aspects of highly effective practice from which others may learn. The aspect of practice which should be shared is the innovative and very successful partnerships created with local business that support and enrich the pupils learning.

The ETI, through the work of the district inspector, will continue to work with the school as it takes forward the area for action identified in this report.



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