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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Standard Inspection

Newtownbreda High School

Inspected: November 2006

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CONTEXT

Newtownbreda High School is a controlled non-selective co-educational school situated in South Belfast. The enrolment has declined slightly in recent years and currently stands at 743. Approximately 19% of the pupils are entitled to free school meals and just over 39.2% of the pupils have been identified as having special educational needs.

1.2 FOCUS

The inspection focused on the quality of the leadership and management throughout the school and also on the subjects of mathematics, modern languages, and art and design. The school's provision for pastoral care and the arrangements for child protection were also inspected.

1.3 THE VIEWS OF PARENTS, GOVERNORS, PUPILS AND TEACHERS

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection, as well as meetings with representatives from the Board of Governors (BoG) and groups of pupils from years 8, 12 and the sixth form. One hundred and twenty-nine questionnaires were issued to the parents; 20% were returned to the Department of Education (DE) and 16 contained additional written comments. Twenty-three members of the staff responded to the on-line questionnaire.

The responses from the parental questionnaires indicated that the parents appreciate the care and commitment of the teachers, and the governors expressed their support for the work of the school. The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) has reported to the Principal and representatives of the BoG on any issues emerging from the questionnaires and the discussions.

1.4 EXAMINATIONS

Over the last three years, the proportion of pupils obtaining grades A* to E and A* to C in at least five subjects at General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is below the corresponding proportion for similar non-selective schools. In 2006, just over one-third of the pupils achieved grades A* to C in at least five subjects which is below the Northern Ireland (NI) average for similar schools. In contrast, very good standards were achieved in public examinations over the past three years in a minority of individual subjects. Importantly, the results obtained in public examinations have been improving. Appropriately, the further improvement of the pupils' attainment in public examinations, and of standards in general, have been identified as a priority in the school development plan and work is ongoing on this. The inspection findings endorse this as a key priority. More details about the examination results are provided in Appendices 2 and 3.

2. MAIN FINDINGS

2.1 The strengths of the school include:

- the hard-working and committed teachers;
- the quality of the teaching seen which was often good and in a few of the classes excellent;
- the excellent work observed in the Pupil Support Centre;
- the sound start made to self-evaluation;
- the work of the Curriculum Committee in supporting the strategic development of the work of the school;
- the comprehensive year 8 induction programme;
- the efforts of teachers to promote good behaviour in the classrooms;
- the comprehensive and well-structured Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme; and
- the Principal and Senior Management Team (SMT) who are committed to the school and have overseen recent improvements, for example, in standards achieved in external examinations.

2.2 The areas for improvement include:

- the further improvement in standards including those achieved in public examinations;
- the development of the arrangements for self-evaluation to include a more extensive use of quantitative data including any relevant benchmarking; and
- the need to ensure the consistent implementation of effective strategies to promote good behaviour in the circulation and outdoor areas to support the pupils' learning and development.

3. CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the school has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the learners.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

ACCOMMODATION

- There is a need to ensure that mobile classrooms have appropriate security arrangements.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

- 1.1 i. School: Newtownbreda High
 ii. School Reference Number: 421-0183
 iii. Age Range: 11-18
 iv. Status: Secondary Controlled
 v. Date of Inspection: W/C 20/11/06
 vi. Area of Study: Standard Inspection

1.2 Intake/Enrolment

School Year	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Year 8 Intake	171	164	132	124	110
Total enrolment	805	837	825	790	743

1.3 Attendance

Year 2005/06	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Average 2005/06	NI Average 2004/05
% Attendance	90.8	87.4	87.3	87.8	89.2	87.9	88	88	91

- 1.4 i. Total Number of Teachers: iii. Contact ratio (percentage of timetabled time in direct class contact):
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio):

Year 2006/07	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	TOTAL
Enrolment: Boys	63	62	68	80	93	14	8	388
Enrolment: Girls	47	54	58	76	77	18	25	355
Enrolment: Total	110	116	126	156	170	32	33	743
PTR	14.023	14.478	16.028	15.715	16.896	10.643	13.934	

1.5 Staying On Rate (2005/06) (Current year 13/14 as proportion of year 12 from 1/2 years previously)

Year 13	20.0	NI Av Year 13	N/A
Year 14	8.8	NI Av Year 14	N/A

1.6 Leavers Destinations

2004/05	Year 12	NI%	Year 13/14	NI%
Total Number of Leavers	136		19	
Another School	6%	8.2	0%	N/A
Employment	6%	10.9	26%	N/A
Full-time Further Education	33%	36.8	32%	N/A
Full-time Higher Education	N/A	N/A	32%	N/A
Full-time Training	43%	34.3	0%	N/A
Seeking Employment/Unemployed	7%	6.3	11%	N/A
Unknown/Long Term Sick/Pregnant	4%	3.6	0%	N/A

1.7 NAME OF SCHOOL: Newtownbreda High School

SCHOOL YEAR: 2006/2007

GCSE	2004	2005	2006
Percentage of Year 12 taking GCSE in at least 5 subjects	93.53	91.77	92.07
Percentage of Year 12 obtaining Grades C or above in at least 5 subjects	34.53	37.97	35.37
Percentage of Year 12 obtaining Grades E or above in at least 5 subjects	81.29	75.95	76.83
GCE A2 Level or equivalent	2004	2005	2006
Percentage of Year 14 obtaining Grades C or above in at least 3 A2 levels	0	0	64
Percentage of Year 14 obtaining Grades E or above in at least 2 A2 levels	0	0	100

Within this report, when commenting on examination results of individual subjects, the respective CCEA average is used as a proxy for the corresponding average for all pupils in NI taking that subject.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Table showing the GCSE subject results over the previous three years ending in June 2006, in comparison with the respective Northern Ireland (NI) averages

Table 1

	More than 10 percentage points above	Between 5 and 10 percentage points above	Within 5 percentage points	Between 5 and 10 percentage points below	More than 10 percentage points below
GCSE A-C	Art & Design, Business Studies, French	Design & Technology	History, Music, Personal & Social Education, Religious Studies	English, Geography	English Literature, Home Economics, Home Economics Child Development, Information Technology, Mathematics, Motor Vehicle Studies, Double Award Science 1 st Subject, Single Award Science, Sport/PE Studies
GCSE A-E	Business Studies, French	Design & Technology	Art & Design, English, English Literature, Geography, History, Home Economics, Information Technology, Mathematics, Music, Personal & Social Education, Religious Studies	Home Economics Child Development, Double Award Science 1 st subject, Sport/PE Studies	Motor Vehicle Studies, Single Award Science

Table showing the spread of the NI subject averages which have been used in the determination of Table 1.

Table 2

	100% - 96%	95% - 86%	85% - 76%	75% - 66%	65% - 0%
GCSE A-C			German, Music	Art & Design, Drama, English Literature, Information Technology, Double Award Science 1 st Subject	Business Studies, Design & Technology, English, French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Home Economics Child Development, Mathematics, Motor Vehicle Studies, Personal & Social Education, Religious Studies, Single Award Science, Sport/PE Studies
GCSE A-E	English Literature, German, Double Award Science 1 st Subject	Art & Design, Drama, English, History, Home Economics, Home Economics Child Development, Information Technology, Music, Sport/PE Studies	Business Studies, Design & Technology, French, Geography, Mathematics, Personal & Social Education, Religious Studies, Single Award Science	Motor Vehicle Studies	

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