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Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St Patrick's College
Dungiven**

June 2010

Chairperson of the Board of Governors
St Patrick's College
9 Curragh Road
Dungiven
DERRY
BT47 4SE

8 July 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

The Education and Training Inspectorate conducted a follow-up inspection of St Patrick's College, Dungiven on 7 June 2010. The reporting inspector, Mr T Scullion, has already given you feedback. Attached is a copy of the follow-up inspection report.

The Department will not send copies of this short report to parents, although the school may send out copies if it so wishes, or inform parents that the report is available.

In line with usual practice, the report will be published on the website of the Department of Education after Wednesday 14 July 2010.

Yours sincerely



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Inspection Services Branch

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE STANDARD INSPECTION OF ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, DUNGIVEN, CO DERRY, BT47 4SE (223-0144)

The standard inspection in St Patrick's College, Dungiven in April 2008, highlighted strengths in the school's provision that included the friendly and co-operative pupils, the quality of the teaching observed, the commitment and dedication of the Principal and staff to the pupils and the links made with the local community and other education providers to enhance the provision. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to address the variation in the examination results across the subjects, raising the standards in a number;
- the need to review and develop the Special Educational Needs provision; and
- the need to implement, monitor and evaluate strategically the planned developments to ensure they lead to improvements in teaching and learning.

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

- the staff have received support from the Western Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS), the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and through the Roe Valley Learning Partnership;
- the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and classroom assistants have received additional training;
- increased time for learning support has been secured and the learning support room has been refurbished;
- a systematic structure has been established for monitoring and evaluating the quality of planning, learning and teaching, and assessment throughout the school with clearly defined roles for heads of departments/subject co-ordinators, the Curriculum Development Team and the Senior Management Team; and
- a mentoring programme has been introduced to support year 12 pupils who have been identified as underachieving and individual subject workshops for all pupils are provided in preparation for their General Certificate in Secondary Education (GCSE) examinations.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and finally a follow-up inspection which was carried out on 7 June 2010.

The action plans produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings were of a good quality.

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 Department of Education.

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

- the development of a whole-school focus on raising achievement including the effective analysis of performance data to inform target setting, the tracking and mentoring of individual pupils and the well organised subject revision workshops;
- the improvement in the pupils' performance including the percentages of pupils attaining five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, and five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and mathematics, both of which have risen to well above the Northern Ireland averages for similar non-selective schools;
- the good support for pupils requiring additional help with aspects of their learning and the evidence of progress being made; and
- the development and implementation of a rigorous programme for monitoring and evaluating the pastoral and curriculum provision which is supported by the teachers and is having a positive impact on learning and teaching.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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