

**The Bournemouth and Poole College  
Reinspection of Construction: February 2000  
Report from the Inspectorate  
The Further Education Funding Council**

## **THE FURTHER EDUCATION FUNDING COUNCIL**

*The Further Education Funding Council (FEFC) has a legal duty to make sure further education in England is properly assessed. The FEFC's inspectorate inspects and reports on each college of further education according to a four-year cycle. It also assesses and reports nationally on the curriculum, disseminates good practice and advises the FEFC's quality assessment committee.*

### **REINSPECTION**

*The FEFC has agreed that colleges with provision judged by the inspectorate to be less than satisfactory or poor (grade 4 or 5) should be reinspected. In these circumstances, a college may have its funding agreement with the FEFC qualified to prevent it increasing the number of new students in an unsatisfactory curriculum area until the FEFC is satisfied that weaknesses have been addressed.*

*Satisfactory provision may also be reinspected if actions have been taken to improve quality and the college's existing inspection grade is the only factor which prevents it from meeting the criteria for FEFC accreditation.*

*Reinspections are carried out in accordance with the framework and guidelines described in Council Circulars 97/12, 97/13 and 97/22. Reinspections seek to validate the data and judgements provided by colleges in self-assessment reports and confirm that actions taken as a result of previous inspection have improved the quality of provision. They involve full-time inspectors and registered part-time inspectors who have knowledge of, and experience in, the work they inspect. The opinion of the FEFC's audit service contributes to inspectorate judgements about governance and management.*

### **GRADE DESCRIPTORS**

*Assessments use grades on a five-point scale to summarise the balance between strengths and weaknesses. The descriptors for the grades are:*

- *grade 1 - outstanding provision which has many strengths and few weaknesses*
- *grade 2 - good provision in which the strengths clearly outweigh the weaknesses*
- *grade 3 - satisfactory provision with strengths but also some weaknesses*
- *grade 4 - less than satisfactory provision in which weaknesses clearly outweigh the strengths*
- *grade 5 - poor provision which has few strengths and many weaknesses.*

*Audit conclusions are expressed as good, adequate or weak.*

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## **The Bournemouth and Poole College South West Region**

### **Reinspection of construction: February 2000**

#### **Background**

The Bournemouth and Poole College was inspected in November 1998 and the findings were published in inspection report 25/99. Provision in construction was graded 4.

The strengths of the provision were: a broad range of courses; some good teaching in lessons in the workshops; and extensive and realistic training and assessment facilities. The main weaknesses identified at the inspection were: some poorly planned lessons; poor pass rates on some courses; deteriorating retention rates on many courses; unsatisfactory carpentry and joinery workshops; and unsatisfactory curriculum management.

The provision was reinspected in February 2000. Inspectors observed 11 lessons, held meetings with the head of school and head of faculty, and had discussions with teachers and students. Students' work was examined, together with data on students' achievements and a wide range of documentation prepared for the reinspection.

#### **Assessment**

Inspectors found that the quality of teaching had improved since the previous inspection. The majority of lessons were good and none were poor. The college has introduced key skills lessons for full-time students. Teachers mark students' work carefully and provide helpful comments. Demonstration is used effectively to increase student understanding. However, there is still an over reliance on the use of worksheets and students do not always understand the technical language used. Teachers do not make sufficient use of other resource materials. In some practical lessons teachers do not correct poor workshop practice by students.

Since the last inspection retention and achievement rates have improved on many courses. Retention and pass rates on advanced level craft courses are good. However, retention and pass rates on many intermediate level craft courses have been below national averages for the last three years. The overall pass rate for the programme area has risen from 48% in 1998 to 63% in 1999. Craft students have been successful in a number of national competitions. The college has made major improvements to the craft workshops since the last inspection. For example, the carpentry and joinery workshops have been refurbished. They are well maintained, have sufficient working areas and the quality and stock of tools is good. IT facilities are now available in all craft workshops. Technician support levels have increased. However, some weaknesses in specialist resources still exist.

There have been improvements in curriculum management. There is now an informative school development plan, a clear management structure and regular scheduled meetings for course teams. However, it is too early to judge the overall impact of some of the changes. Course teams do not place sufficient emphasis on improving the quality of teaching and learning.

**Revised grade:** construction 3.