



**Specialist School Evaluation**  
**June 2009**  
**Parents' Responses.**

As part of the internal evaluation of our Specialist school status we sent questionnaires to you the parents of randomly selected pupils by simply taking every fifth child on our register in Key Stage 3 and year 11. The year 12, 13 and 14 pupils had left school by the time of this evaluation.

In all, 47 pupils in the aforementioned group were randomly selected and questionnaires were posted along with your child's report , we enclosed an SAE which we hope you found useful. Our percentage return is 57.4% which is fairly good, considering the time of year.

Your responses are tabulated below. The highlighted cells show the results above 75% based on True responses only.

<b>Statement</b>	<b>True</b>	<b>Mostly True</b>	<b>Rarely True</b>	<b>Not True</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>	<b>No Response</b>
Aware that Carrick College is a Specialist School	<b>YES</b> 89%	NO 11%				
Specialist School For:-	<b>A</b> <b>Performing Arts</b>	<b>B</b> 15% <b>ICT</b>	<b>C</b> 78% <b>Business &amp; Enterprise</b>	<b>D</b> <b>Languages</b>		7%
SSS has improved resources	52%	33%	7%		4%	4%
SSS has improved Pupil experiences	59%	30%	3.7%		3.7%	3.7%
Aware of new vocational	74%	15%		7%		4%

subjects						
SSS having apposite influence on my child	48%	33%	7%	4%	4%	4%
Links with business and enterprise are made clear to the pupils	48%	37%	7%		4%	4%
Benefiting from a wide range of experiences	44%	41%	4%	7%	4%	
Aware of ICT classes running	YES 81%	NO 19%				

As you can see 11% of the small random sample stated that they were not aware that Carrick College is a Specialist School. As we are entering our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Specialist School Status it would be reasonable to assume that all our parents should be aware that we are a specialist school, and that perhaps we should do more to keep you, our parents, informed.

85% of you agree that it is at least mostly true that resources at the College have improved while 89% state that pupil experiences have improved, 89% also aware of the introduction of vocational subjects with 81% agreeing that Specialist school Status was having a positive effect on their children. 85% say that links to Business are made clear to the pupils with the same number agreeing that pupils are benefiting from a wide range of experiences and finally 81% were aware of the ICT classes running in school.

None of the responses fall outside of the upper quartile when adding True and Mostly True together, with only the 3 highlighted questions achieving this result on the True responses only.

The results are fairly positive but we should continue to strive to make everyone aware and to involve you as much as possible as partners in your childrens' education.

## **ACTION FOR IMPROVEMENT**

As none of the responses call for immediate attention the following are general thoughts on improving parental communication.

- Any activity involving parents should have links to Specialist School made explicit.
- Parents should be asked for their feedback at the end of any activity.
- Parents will continue to be consulted and results of consultation put onto website