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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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**Providing Inspection Services for  
Department of Education  
Department for Employment and Learning  
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



**Education and Training Inspectorate**

**Report of a Baseline Inspection Visit**

**of**

**Gaelscoil an Chaistil Nursery Unit  
Ballycastle**

**May 2013**

## **INSPECTION VISIT TO GAELSCOIL AN CHAISTIL NURSERY UNIT**

In 2012 the NEELB established a nursery unit providing a full-time class in Gaelscoil an Chaistil for children in their pre-school year.

An inspection visit to the nursery unit class was carried out on 31 May 2013. This inspection evaluation is based on evidence gained from in-class observations and from the scrutiny of a range of relevant documentation provided by the school.

### **Summary of main findings**

During the visit, the following strengths of the nursery unit class were observed:

- the warm, welcoming inclusive ethos ,the excellent working relationships at all levels and the very well-settled children who engage in sustained purposeful play, work collaboratively and display high levels of independence;
- the consistent high quality of the staff's interactions with the children, in particular, the staff modelled good play, developed the children's language and thinking skills through open-ended discussions and demonstrated an inclusive approach to involving the children in play;
- the well-planned programme which provides a broad and balanced range of learning experiences, in particular the provision for physical development, investigating the world around us and the development of early writing skills;
- the strong immersion environment which supports very effectively the children's acquisition of the Irish language;
- the effective teamwork of the Principal, the teacher in charge and the staff and the strong culture of self-evaluation which is appropriately informing improvements within the nursery unit's provision; and
- the very good and effective links with parents, the Gaelscoil and the local community.

### **Conclusion**

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery unit is very good. The nursery unit is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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