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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**

**St Paul's Primary School Nursery Unit  
Belfast**

**May 2013**

## **INSPECTION VISIT TO ST PAUL'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT**

In 2011, the Belfast Education and Library Board closed St Paul's Nursery School and opened a double nursery unit in the same accommodation, providing two full time classes in St Paul's Primary School for children in their pre-school year.

An inspection visit to the nursery unit was carried out on Wednesday 1 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 were observed:**

- the very positive ethos based on caring and support relationships between the staff and the children;
- the happy, well settled children who have made very good progress in developing their social skills;
- the many examples of concentrated and collaborative play observed during the sessions;
- the very effective links and partnerships with the parents, adjoining primary school and other agencies and professionals; and
- the evidence of a strong team approach among the hard-working staff and their commitment to continuous improvement.

#### **In order to improve further the educational and pastoral provision, the staff should now:**

- improve the quality of the learning environment both indoors and outdoors by providing more distinct and richly resourced areas for play;
- develop greater consistency in the quality of the staff interaction to support the children's independence, language and learning; and
- continue to develop the planning and assessment methods to inform the development of the pre-school programme to meet more fully the needs and interests of the children.

## **CONCLUSION**

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in this nursery unit is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in standards and learning and teaching which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the nursery unit's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

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