



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

**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 Follow-up Inspection

**Bleary Primary School
Craigavon**

September 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF BLEARY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CRAIGAVON, CO ARMAGH, BT66 8TD (501-1602)

The focused inspection of Bleary Primary School in April 2010 highlighted the following strengths: the well-behaved, friendly and co-operative children; the caring and supportive ethos; the good or better quality of teaching in almost half of the lessons observed; the good standards of literacy and numeracy achieved by the majority of the children by the end of Key Stage 2; and the hard-working and committed Acting-principal, teachers and support staff.

The areas for improvement identified in the original inspection included the need for:

- the governors to work in conjunction with the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB), as a matter of urgency, to resolve the current management, staffing and curricular issues in order to ensure continuity in the provision for the children and to safeguard the future development of the school; and
- the teachers to evaluate the short-term planning and classroom practice to ensure that the teaching strategies are sufficiently differentiated to meet more adequately the needs and abilities of all the children.

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

- A new Principal has been appointed.
- The enrolment has increased from 65 children to 73.
- The percentage of children entitled to free school meals has increased from 21.5% to 35.6%.
- There has been a wide range of staff development in literacy and numeracy with support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the SELB.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an interim follow-up inspection visit in September 2011, and a follow-up inspection in September 2012.

The action plans developed by the school in response to the inspection findings were of a good quality. The school's development planning process has focused on addressing the findings from the original inspection.

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

- the improved quality of the teaching observed, with most of the lessons being good or better;
- the good quality of the provision for literacy and numeracy;
- the effective review by the teachers of their short-term planning to develop a wider range of differentiated teaching strategies; and
- the effective leadership of the Principal, and the co-ordinators of literacy and numeracy in bringing about improvement in key areas.

The remaining area for improvement is:

- to develop further the provision for those children who require additional support for their learning through a sharper evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategies for differentiation and to put in place support strategies in numeracy.

CONCLUSION

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 ETI will monitor the school's progress in addressing the remaining area for improvement.

As a matter of urgency, it will be important that the SELB, governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and the significant pressures on the school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and staff.

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