



*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

**Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain
Belfast**

June 2013

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF BUNSCOIL MHC REACHTAIN, BELFAST, BT15 1EZ (101-6647)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a focused inspection of Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain in May 2008 and, as a result, the school entered the formal intervention process. The Department of Education (DE) indicated at that time that a follow-up inspection would take place and that, in the interim, follow-up visits would evaluate the progress being made in bringing about the necessary improvements. The follow-up inspection was carried out on 6 May 2010. The overall quality of provision was evaluated as satisfactory and the school exited the formal intervention process¹. The follow-up inspection identified the need to continue to strengthen the school's processes for school development planning.

In the interval since the follow-up inspection, the ETI carried out two interim follow-up visits and a further follow-up inspection on 14 June 2013. In the corresponding period, the school continued to receive support from the Inter-board Irish-Medium Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) and the Belfast Education and Library Board CASS team. The following changes which affect the work of the school have taken place since the follow-up inspection:

- the inclusive review of the school development planning process, including the effective use of quantitative and qualitative data to inform the agreed improvement targets for individual children; and
- the extensive action-research undertaken by all of the staff which has an important focus on developing the children's skills and on raising further the standards they attain.

The following are the most important improvements since the follow-up inspection in May 2010:

- the effective school development planning process which maintains an important focus on:
 - the effective use of data;
 - monitoring and evaluating the quality of the children's work;
 - listening to and responding to the children's views on their learning;
 - the inclusion of parents in the setting of targets for improvement in their children's work.
- the development of the children's thinking skills and personal capabilities, evident in their enjoyment of and enthusiasm for learning; and
- the continuing improvement in the standards the children attain in literacy and numeracy.

During the follow-up inspection, the quality of the teaching observed was consistently very good. The lessons were very well-planned providing a suitable degree of challenge to the more able children and appropriate support for those children experiencing barriers to their learning.

¹ For further details, see the key strengths and areas for improvement reported originally in the Report of an Inspection of Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain in May 2008 and in the Follow-up Inspection Report in May 2010.

On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the follow-up inspection, the school has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children; these arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

Overall, the quality of education provided by this school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address.

It continues to be important that the employing authority, governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

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