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*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

**Downpatrick Primary School
Co Down**

May 2013

FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DOWNPATRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL, CO DOWN, BT30 6AF (401-6235)

The short inspection in October 2011 highlighted strengths in: the very good arrangements for pastoral care which promote effectively the children's positive behaviour and self-esteem; the good use made of information and communication technology (ICT) to support teaching and learning and the very good standards in ICT achieved by the children at the end of key stage (KS) 2; the good start made to collecting and analysing data to identify children's levels of progress; the very good provision made for the children with moderate learning difficulties in the Learning Support Centre; and the children's ability to listen attentively, settle to tasks and show enjoyment in their learning.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to build the capacity of all staff to improve the quality of the teaching and learning; and
- for the leadership and management to focus their monitoring and evaluations more closely on the learning outcomes in order to raise further the standards achieved by the children.

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

- the staff development programme has prioritised: the effective use of data and sharing good practice in planning, differentiation and assessment for learning;
- the teachers have benefited from training provided by educational support agencies, particularly in: intervention strategies for mathematics; developing the writing process; and provision within the foundation stage;
- the co-ordinators have been given time to carry out their curricular responsibilities, including the monitoring and evaluation of teaching and learning in mathematics and English; and
- the school has grouped the classes, including the unit classes, in discrete foundation or key stage blocks.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 23 May 2013.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings and prioritises appropriately the areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education (DE).

On the basis of the evidence available at the time of inspection, the school has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children which reflect the guidance issued by the DE.

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

- the arrangements for sharing good practice among the staff have been developed well through in-school training and external support;
- most of the lessons observed were good or very good;
- the senior leadership team has implemented more rigorous procedures for monitoring and evaluating the provision and extended these arrangements to include the main curricular co-ordinators;
- an appropriate range of quantitative and benchmarking data is analysed effectively and used appropriately by the teachers and co-ordinators to raise further the standards the children attain in literacy and numeracy;
- the grouping of classes in foundation stage and key stage blocks has facilitated the sharing of resources and good practice; and
- the standards attained by the children in literacy have risen and the standards attained in mathematics have been maintained.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address. This is the need to:

- continue to disseminate and build upon the best practice in learning and teaching, focusing closely on the learning outcomes, in order to raise further the standards attained by the children.

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