



*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

Gaelscoil an Lonnáin
Belfast

November 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF GAELSCOIL AN LONNÁIN, BELFAST, BT12 4PB (104-6672)

The focused inspection in March 2008 highlighted strengths in the distinctive ethos of the school based on the Irish language, the welcoming, friendly atmosphere, the exemplary behaviour of the children, the commitment of the Principal and the staff to the children and the school, the dedication of the Board of Governors and parents to the life and work of the school and the strong links established with Naíscoil an Lonnáin.

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

- the need to review the arrangements for Pastoral Care and Child Protection to ensure that the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education (DE) circulars is fully implemented;
- the need to review the school development plan (SDP) in the light of the inspection findings to guide the work of the school in a more strategic manner; and
- to develop effective systems at all levels to monitor and evaluate the quality of the school's provision to promote continuing improvement.

In the interval since the original inspection, the school has received support from the Inter-board Irish-Medium Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) and the Belfast Education and Library Board CASS team in the following areas:

- the development of aspects of the school's provision for literacy, bi-literacy and numeracy across the school in order to raise the standards the children achieve; and
- the analysis and interpretation of pupil performance data.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out three interim follow-up visits (IFUVs) and a follow-up inspection on 19 November 2010.

Since the initial inspection in March 2008, the following actions which affect the work of the school have taken place. A new Principal and one new teacher have been appointed. The enrolment has remained steady and stands currently at 46 children.

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

The following are the most important improvements made:

- the school's arrangements for Pastoral Care and Child Protection were dealt with appropriately within six weeks of the focused inspection; the school now has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by DE.

- an effective SDP has been devised based on the original findings of the inspection; the SDP sets out, in a series of suitable action plans, the key strategies to bring about improvement in curricular areas, learning and teaching and promoting good behaviour; there is a sharper focus on the collation and analysis of the children's performance data in order to assess their progress and to inform individual and whole school targets;
- co-ordinators have been appointed for literacy, numeracy and special educational needs; they are clear in the roles they perform and they have developed helpful documentation to guide work in their subject areas; and
- the work of the school has benefited considerably from the strategic leadership and capable management of the Principal in monitoring the planning, effecting improvements and in promoting the future sustainability of the school.

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 provision. The areas for improvement identified in the original inspection have been systematically addressed.

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