



*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 na Daróige  
Derry**

**June 2014**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF GAELSCOIL NA DARÓIGE, DERRY, BT48 0PD (204-6687)**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection of Gaelscoil na Daróige in June 2013. The overall quality of provision was evaluated as satisfactory. The inspection identified the need for further improvements to take place in addressing more fully the needs of the children with learning difficulties and for the principal to evaluate more critically whole-school provision in order to effect sustained improvement.

In the interval since the last follow-up inspection, the school has continued to receive support from the Inter-board Irish-Medium Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS), and the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) CASS team. The principal and teaching staff have also visited a school of similar size to observe good practice in management and in foundation stage classroom practice. The following changes which affect the work of the school have taken place since the last follow-up inspection:

- the enrolment continues to grow steadily and stands currently at 60; the percentage of children on the special educational needs register has fallen from 30% to 26%; and the percentage of children entitled to free school meals has fallen from 64% to 51%;
- the special educational needs co-ordinator now provides withdrawal and in-class support five days per week, for children identified as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning; and
- two teachers have completed the first year of the Special Educational Needs Literacy Capacity Building Programme provided by St Mary's and Stranmillis University Colleges, Belfast.

The following are the most important improvements since the follow-up inspection in June 2013.

- The principal has a clear strategic approach to monitoring and evaluating learning and teaching, including: carrying out planned classroom observations; scrutinising children's work; and monitoring teachers' planning.
- The principal and staff use effectively performance data and teacher observations to inform better the planning and to ensure that the needs of the children are more fully met.
- The children with statements of special educational needs are identified early and appropriate and effective strategies are put in place to meet their individual learning and emotional needs.
- The standards of the children's work and the quality of the teaching observed continue to improve; during this inspection, the quality of teaching observed ranged from good to outstanding, with four-fifths being very good or outstanding.

## **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 follow-up inspection has identified the need for the principal to continue to embed the well-developed processes for monitoring and self evaluation. The ETI will continue to monitor the school's progress in this area.

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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