



*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 2013

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF GAELSCOIL NA DARÓIGE, DERRY, BT48 0ND (204-6687)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a focused inspection of Gaelscoil na Daróige in November 2009 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 in November 2011. The overall quality of provision was evaluated as satisfactory and the school exited the formal intervention process¹. The follow-up inspection identified the need for the Principal to review the provision for the children with special educational needs (SEN) and to focus whole-school development on actions designed to bring about consistent improvement in the standards which the children achieve.

In the interval since the follow-up inspection, the ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in March 2013 and a further follow-up inspection on 6 June 2013. In the corresponding period 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 following changes which affect the work of the school have taken place since the follow-up inspection:

- the enrolment continues to grow steadily and stands currently at 56; around 30% of the children are in receipt of special educational needs (SEN) and approximately 64% of the children are entitled to free school meals; and
- there are now five permanent members of staff including the Principal who has no teaching duties; special educational needs support is provided two days per week by a teacher who is released from class to work with small groups of children.

The following are the most important improvements since the follow-up inspection in May 2011:

- the continued focus on literacy linking purposefully the three skills of talking and listening, reading and reading in both languages, including effective questioning and greater opportunities for the children to write across the curriculum;
- the focus on marking which helps the children improve their work;
- the effective use by the teachers of clear learning intentions at the start of lessons and useful plenary sessions to summarise the learning at the end of sessions; and
- the increasing capacity of the subject co-ordinators in using data effectively, scrutinising the written work of the children and engaging in peer observations of teaching with their colleagues, in order to improve the standards achieved by the children.

¹ For further details, see the key strengths and areas for improvement reported originally in the Report of an Inspection of Gaelscoil na Daróige in November 2009 and in the Follow-up Inspection Report in November 2011.

CONCLUSION

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has 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.

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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