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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

**Gaelscoil na gCrann
Omagh**

November 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF GAELSCOIL NA GCRANN OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT79 0GZ (204-6677)

The focused inspection in March 2009 highlighted strengths in the quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection; the dedication and commitment of the staff to the work and life of the school; the quality of the teaching in years 1, 2 and 3; and the strong support of governors and parents.

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

- the need to develop more rigorous and consistent systems of assessment throughout the school;
- the need to develop strategic leadership, to promote self-evaluation, and to establish effective structures to monitor and evaluate provision and outcomes; and
- to raise the standards achieved by the children by the end of key stage (KS) 2.

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 Western 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;

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out three interim follow-up visits (IFUVs) and a follow-up inspection on 4 November 2010.

Since the initial inspection in March 2009, the following actions which affect the work of the school have taken place. A new Principal and three new teachers have been appointed. The enrolment has increased from 52 children at the time of the inspection to 70. In addition, a new Irish-medium nursery unit (naíscoil) has been established.

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 promotion of a culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement;
- the effective monitoring and evaluation of the school's policies, practices and procedures by the new Principal;
- the more focused use of performance data by the teachers to assess the children's progress and set targets for improvement; and
- the introduction of a range of learning and teaching strategies in both literacy and numeracy to ensure better progression in the children's learning experiences and outcomes; and
- the quality of the teaching observed ranged from good to outstanding; and

- in both Irish and English, the older children have opportunities for personal writing and much of this work is of good quality; they are becoming fluent readers in both languages; in addition, the children in KS2 are consolidating their basic numeracy skills through problem solving activities and they are developing well mathematical thinking and knowledge through the use of mathematical games and other purposeful activities.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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