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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

**King's Park Primary School
Newtownabbey**

May 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF KING'S PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTOWNABBEY, CO ANTRIM, BT37 0DG (301-0880)

The focused inspection in January 2011 highlighted strengths in the strong commitment to the care, health and well-being of the children and the staff, the good or better quality of majority of the teaching, the well-mannered and respectful children, the very good pastoral care provision, the improving standards in the children's reading, and the many opportunities provided for the parents to contribute to their child's learning and to become involved in the life and work of the school.

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

- to match the learning more closely to the varying need of all of the children, and provide higher levels of challenge;
- to improve the strategic leadership at all levels and, in particular, redefine and clarify roles and responsibilities associated with the whole-school co-ordination of the curriculum; and
- to implement a more rigorous process of self-evaluation, with a sharper focus on raising standards.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place. For example:

- the appointment of co-ordinators to oversee the development of the work of the school with clearly identified roles and responsibilities;
- the review of the management of, and arrangements for the provision for special educational needs (SEN);
- the redrafting of the SEN policy and drawing up of key documentation in line with the special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) handbook;
- the development of subject teams to oversee progression in all aspects of the curriculum;
- the greater focus given to investigative work and tasks in mathematics;
- the monitoring visits of the Principal, Vice-Principal and the Middle Management team and the provision of feedback on the quality of the teaching observed;
- the implementation of appropriate self-evaluation strategies to guide the co-ordinators and the teacher's in their work; and
- the development of the work of subject teams to oversee progression in all aspects of the curriculum across the school;

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a monitoring visit in November 2011 and a follow-up inspection in May 2012.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

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

- the steady improvement in the standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy;
- the enthusiasm and effectiveness of the SENCO, literacy, numeracy and assessment co-ordinators in leading the developments and improvements in their respective areas;
- the quality of teaching in the lessons observed which was always very good or outstanding;
- the very good opportunities provided for the children to develop their thinking skills and personal capabilities through a variety of independent and collaborative learning activities;
- the close scrutiny of all available data to inform teachers' planning, classroom practice, to track progress, to set targets for whole-school, class and individual children, and to identify emerging trends;
- the effective strategies in place to monitor and evaluate the work of the school on improving further the standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy; and
- the effective collegiate whole-school approach to school improvement under the outstanding leadership of the Principal and the Vice-Principal.

CONCLUSION

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

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