



*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

**Ligoniel Primary School
Belfast**

May 2015

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LIGONIEL PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT14 8BW (101-0325)

The original inspection of Ligoniel Primary School in 2014 highlighted strengths which included: the school's performance in English and mathematics which was in line with or above the Northern Ireland average in two out of the previous four years, the quality of the pastoral care provision and the high priority given to developing the children's personal, social and emotional well-being.

It also highlighted the following areas for improvement:

- to review the roles and responsibilities of all staff and to provide more effective strategic leadership and management at all levels to effect sustainable improvement in learning and teaching;
- to raise further the standards of literacy and numeracy for all the children; and
- for all the teachers to develop a shared understanding of and implement the learning and teaching strategies required to provide literacy and numeracy and play-based learning programmes which meet the needs of all the children more effectively.

The inspection conclusion in April 2014 was that 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 identified areas for improvement in standards, learning and teaching, and leadership and management which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively.

In the interval since the original inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- the staff have developed new quality assurance procedures which include: systematic observations of the children's learning, opportunities for the children to comment on the quality of their learning experiences and the use of a wider range of data;
- the roles and responsibilities of all of the staff have been clarified and developed further;
- an evaluation of the school development plan has led to action plans which are more sharply focused on the key areas for improvement;
- the staff received well-targeted and effective support for literacy, numeracy and play-based learning and teaching from the Education Authority Belfast Region Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS);
- the revised process for linking the continuing professional development programme to the key priorities was identified in the action plans; and
- the staff visited other schools to continue their professional development through liaising with co-ordinators in similar settings.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection in May 2015.

The action plans received by the Department of Education following the inspection were of a good quality.

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

- the quality of the teaching observed which ranged from satisfactory to outstanding and, when most effective, includes clear learning intentions with the children contributing effectively to the success criteria;
- the systematic and rigorous programme for self-evaluation leading to improvement, which includes detailed evaluations of the children's work, observations of the children's learning and opportunities for the children to discuss their learning and suggest ways to improve their own work;
- the senior management team, working in close collaboration with all the staff, have agreed a well-focused and effective programme of capacity building in, for example, the more strategic monitoring and evaluation role of the co-ordinators;
- the adept use of a wide range of performance data which informs effectively the action-planning process and helps the co-ordinators identify priorities for school improvement; and
- the improved standards achieved by the children as evidenced by the school's own assessment, the quality of their responses and the work in their books.

Conclusion

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address. This is the need to:

- build on the very good progress made in increasing the capacity of the co-ordinators and embed the increasingly effective systems of monitoring and self-evaluation to sustain the standards the children achieve across the ability range.

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