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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**

**of**

**Naíscoil an Lonnain  
Belfast**

**April 2014**

## **FOLLOW-UP REPORT TO THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil AN Lonnain, BELFAST, BT12 4PD (1BB-0476)**

The inspection in Naíscoil an Lonnain in November 2012 highlighted strengths including:

- the instances of effective interactions of the staff with the children;
- the quality of the staff's spoken Irish;
- the development of the children's understanding of spoken Irish ;
- the bright and stimulating learning environment; and
- the good start made by the staff in developing a systematic approach to observing the children at play and to recording their responses.

It also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need for the staff to further develop the planning and assessment methods to meet the individual needs of all the children, including the two year olds;
- the need for the staff to develop and implement a more consistent approach to behaviour management; and
- the need to further develop the provision for outdoor play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out an interim follow-up visit in May 2013 and a follow up inspection on 9 April 2014.

The action plan received by the Department of Education (DE) following the inspection was of a good quality.

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

- a new leader and assistant have been appointed;
- the Behaviour Management policy has been reviewed and is being implemented consistently by all staff;
- the outdoor play provision has been developed to provide a range of stimulating learning experiences for all of the children;
- effective individual behaviour plans are in place for a small number of the children;
- the underage children no longer attend the morning session; and
- the organisation of the day has been reviewed to provide more appropriate experiences for the children.

The following are the most important improvements that have taken place since the original inspection:

- almost all of the children are well settled for the time of year and are engaged in sustained purposeful play indoors and outdoors;
- all of the children respond well to the staff's positive, consistent approach to behaviour management;
- the quality of the staff's interactions with the children is always good or better;
- the staff have developed a comprehensive process for observing and assessing the children's progress which now informs well the naíscail's medium and short-term planning;
- the leader is an effective role model in her work with the children;
- the staff work effectively as a team to meet the needs of all the children; and
- the staff have developed a culture of self-evaluation and development planning which is clearly leading to improvement.

## **Conclusion**

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this naíscail is now good; the naíscail has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement in the provision for learning which the naíscail has demonstrated the capacity to address.

The area for improvement is:

- to develop further the quality of the play provision in order to provide better opportunities to extend the children's problem-solving and thinking skills.

The Inspectorate will monitor the naíscail's progress on the area for improvement.

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