



*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

Phoenix Integrated Primary School Cookstown

December 2014

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF PHOENIX INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, COOKSTOWN, CO TYRONE, BT80 8QF (506-6657)

The original inspection of Phoenix Integrated Primary School in January 2013 highlighted strengths in the children's engagement with the learning, pastoral care and the provision for special educational needs.

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

- to match the learning activities more closely to the children's abilities and stages of development to ensure progression in their learning and to improve the standards they achieve in literacy and numeracy; and
- to develop further the leadership roles at all levels and to build the capacity of all staff to contribute more effectively to the school improvement process.

The inspection conclusion in January 2013 was that:

"In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in standards, learning and teaching, and leadership and management which the school needs to address if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively."

The Department of Education acknowledged the school's post inspection action plans and the positive response that the school had made, and planned to make, regarding the areas for improvement identified in the report. The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection (FUI) on 8 December 2014.

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

- the staff received tailored support from the Southern Education and Library Board's (SELB) Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) in relation to leadership and management, literacy and numeracy;
- the staff visited other schools to observe and share effective practice; and
- there were a number of changes in staffing, including the appointment of a new vice-principal.

At the time of the FUI, the school was undergoing major extension work.

The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection.

- The planning, learning and teaching which takes better account of the range of the children's abilities and which enables them to apply their learning in literacy and numeracy in meaningful contexts across the curriculum.
- The children's independence and confidence when discussing and sharing their learning with others during practical, paired and group work, supported by a wide range of appropriate resources, including information and communication technology.

- The development of a culture of self-evaluation and collective and collegial responsibility for school improvement, evidenced by the systematic monitoring and evaluation of the provision and the sharing of practice. The staff now have the capacity to build upon the improvements to date by refining and connecting the targets across a number of the school's action plans.
- The use of data to identify low and underachievement in literacy and numeracy and to set targets for further improvements in the standards attained by the children. The school's analysis of internal data is that almost all of the children make good progress in line with or above expectation.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified an area for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address which includes the need for all staff to develop further the quality of the children's extended writing.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor, through district inspection activity, the school's progress on the area for improvement.

Health and safety

1. The Department of Education, governors and staff need to review urgently the access to the main school building to ensure that the site is secure during the building work.
2. The low fence at the front of the school building is not secure.

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