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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

**Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School
Armagh**

October 2010

Chairperson of the Board of Governors
Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School
Killuney Park
Portadown Road
ARMAGH
BT61 9HG

1 November 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

The Education and Training Inspectorate conducted a follow-up inspection of Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School, Armagh on 14 October 2010. The reporting inspector, Mrs G McCormick, has already given you feedback. Attached is a copy of the follow-up inspection report.

The Department will not send copies of this short report to parents, although the school may send out copies if it so wishes, or inform parents that the report is available.

In line with usual practice, the report will be published on the website of the Department of Education after 3 November 2010.

Yours sincerely



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Inspection Services Branch

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF SAINTS AND SCHOLARS INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, ARMAGH, BT61 9HG (506-6578)

The focused inspection in April 2009 highlighted strengths in the caring and inclusive ethos, the high quality of the teaching, the improving standards and children's achievements, the outstanding provision for special education needs and the very effective use made of information and communication technology to support learning and teaching. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop further the role of the co-ordinators and the senior management team in the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of provision; and
- to review the process for self-evaluation and school development planning in order to guide school improvement.

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

- The Mathematics and Numeracy Scheme was updated to guide the teachers more effectively in their planning and practice.
- The senior management team (SMT) and the middle management team (MMT) have carried out regular monitoring of the planning for Literacy and Numeracy with an emphasis on ensuring evaluations are used effectively to inform future learning and teaching.
- There has been a focus on the development of Investigative Work in Mathematics, and Marking for Improvement in Language and Literacy.
- Appropriate self-evaluation strategies have been implemented to guide the co-ordinators and the teachers in their work.
- The school was awarded the 'International Schools Award' by the British Council.
- A woodland nature area has been developed in adjoining land to the school to enhance and extend the learning opportunities for the children.
- The school received valued support from the Southern Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory Support Service.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a monitoring visit in February 2010 and a follow-up inspection on 14 October 2010.

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

The school 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.

Very good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

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

- the Principal, Vice-principal, SMT and MMT have worked diligently with all of the staff to address the areas identified for improvement in the original inspection; they have provided excellent leadership for the staff and have ensured that the pace of change has been well-planned;
- the role of the co-ordinators has been developed further and working groups for Literacy and numeracy set up to take more account of teaching and learning and raising standards for all of the children;
- the Linguistic Phonics programme has been embedded across the school to ensure consistency and progression in this aspect of Literacy;
- there is close scrutiny of all available data, including the use of the Assessment Manager programme to track the progress of the children and identify emerging trends; and
- there is an appropriate focus on underachievement to ensure that all children reach their full potential.

Since the inspection, the school evaluated rigorously the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvement made, and helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through effective self-evaluation, the school demonstrated clear evidence of improvement.

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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