



*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**

**St Francis of Assisi Primary School  
Keady**

**March 2015**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRIMARY SCHOOL, KEADY, CO ARMAGH (503-6610)**

The inspection of St Francis of Assisi Primary School in April 2013 highlighted the following strengths: the hard work of the principal and staff, the very good behaviour of the children and the effective work of the classroom assistants in supporting the children's learning.

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

- for the teachers to develop an agreed understanding of what constitutes effective learning and teaching, specifically in relation to differentiation and progression in the children's learning, in order to raise the children's achievements and standards in literacy and numeracy; and
- to build the capacity of and strengthen the role of the curriculum co-ordinators to include the development of systematic and rigorous monitoring of the provision and the quality of the learning and teaching.

The inspection conclusion in April 2013 was that:

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

The school development plan was adjusted appropriately in light of the inspection findings and the action plan produced by the school was of a very good quality. The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an interim follow-up visit in October 2014 and a follow-up inspection on 4 March 2015.

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

- A vice-principal has been appointed who undertakes the role of numeracy co-ordinator and a new literacy co-ordinator has also been appointed.
- A new senior leadership team (SLT) has been established.
- A range of programmes has been put in place to increase parental engagement with the school and the 'Friends of St Francis of Assisi' has been re-established.
- The board of governors has been reconstituted.
- The teachers have worked with the SLT to identify, share and disseminate effective practice in planning, learning, teaching and assessment.
- The planning for learning in literacy and numeracy has been reviewed.
- The extra-curricular provision has been significantly extended to a wide range of after school clubs including literacy and numeracy support and a breakfast club has been established.

- Improvements were made to the accommodation.
- The staff have received very effective professional development and support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Services (CASS) of the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) in a number of areas including pedagogy and leadership.

The most important improvements since the original inspection include:

- the drive and commitment shown by the SLT, along with the full support of the staff and governors, to improve the school's effectiveness since the focused inspection, which has been determined, sustained and highly successful;
- the highly effective strategic leadership provided by the SLT who monitor and evaluate rigorously all aspects of the provision;
- the development of pedagogy across the three key stages under the leadership of the SLT who mentor staff by explaining clearly what is effective about their work and providing guidance on how to improve further;
- the consistently very high quality of learning and teaching observed throughout the follow-up process;
- the very effective planning for literacy and numeracy which takes close account of the children's interests and ability;
- the collegial approach to all aspects of school improvement to ensure the highest quality provision for all of the children;
- the highly effective use of assessment information to identify the individual needs of the children, to track their progress, to evaluate the impact of the intervention strategies and to inform learning and teaching;
- the significant reduction in underachievement over the last three years, in literacy and numeracy, throughout the school. Almost all of the children are achieving in line with their ability, or above expectation and the very small number who are under-achieving are being supported very effectively;
- the outstanding quality of the children's work across the curriculum and the standards they attain; and
- the very high levels of motivation and disposition to learning of the children who respond positively to their teachers' high expectations in relation to their learning and behaviour.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The school has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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