



*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 Patrick's Primary School  
Hilltown, Newry**

**October 2012**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, HILLTOWN, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT34 5UY (503-3025)**

The inspection of St Patrick's Primary School in January 2011 highlighted strengths in the very good arrangements for pastoral care; the friendly, co-operative children and the effective strategies to help parents support their children's learning. In addition, the inspection highlighted the effective withdrawal provision for the children with additional needs; and the hard-working Principal, teachers and support staff.

The inspection identified the need to:

- improve the overall quality of teaching in order to raise the children's levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy; and
- develop and improve the quality of leadership at all levels.

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

- The number of children entitled to free school meals (FSM) has increased from 24% to 34%.
- There have been several key changes in management, including the appointment of a new vice-principal, the appointment of new co-ordinators for literacy, numeracy and the foundation stage and the restructuring of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).
- The SLT has participated in leadership and management training and there has been well-focused training for the co-ordinators to enable them to develop their monitoring role within the school.
- The learning support teacher now has a full-time class teaching commitment.
- The school has received very good support from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and from the Southern Education and Library Board Curriculum and Advisory Support Services.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out two monitoring visits in October 2011 and April 2012, and a follow-up inspection on 17 October 2012.

The school produced an appropriate action plan in response to the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- The whole-school focus on raising standards has led to an improvement in the quality of the children's independent writing, in the presentation of their written work and in their flexibility with number.
- The number of children who are under-achieving is now small and, the school records indicate that most of these children are making steady progress towards achieving their expected outcomes.

- There has been a steady increase in the number of children who are attaining the expected levels in English and mathematics at the end of key stage 2; as a result the school's performance in English and mathematics is aligned more closely with the Northern Ireland average.
- The quality of the teaching now ranges from satisfactory to outstanding; in the majority of lessons it is good or better.
- The quality of the leadership of the Principal and SLT is now very good.

An area for improvement is the need to:

- disseminate and build upon the best practice within the school, particularly in relation to differentiation, in order to promote consistently high quality teaching and to raise further the children's levels of attainment.

## **CONCLUSION**

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 its capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the school's progress on the area for improvement.

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