



*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 Teresa's Primary School
Tullyherron**

June 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE SHORT INSPECTION OF ST TERESA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, TULLYHERRON, CO ARMAGH, BT60 2UF (503-1107)

The short inspection in March 2010 highlighted the following strengths: the very good behaviour of the children and the high levels of motivation they display in their work; the overall quality of the teaching; the very good arrangements for pastoral care; and the hard work and dedication of the teaching and non-teaching staff to the school and the children

The inspection identified the following areas for improvement:

- to review and develop curriculum policies and programmes to reflect more fully the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- to raise further the standards of attainment in literacy and numeracy; and
- for leadership to have higher expectations for what the children can achieve, to focus more clearly on the quality of the children's learning, and to implement strategies which will ensure improvements in the standards they attain.

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

- a new Principal was appointed in September 2011, following the death in post of the previous Principal in December 2010;
- a review of the curricular and pastoral roles and responsibilities of the teaching staff was undertaken;
- the Principal and the staff received significant pastoral support and professional development from the Southern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS), the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Regional Training Unit (RTU) in aspects of the school's provision including literacy, safeguarding and leadership;
- additional resources were acquired to support and enrich the development of reading, creative writing and problem-solving; and
- a linguistic phonics programme was integrated across the school.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection in June 2012.

The action plans produced by the school in response to the inspection findings were of a very good quality.

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

- the hard work and collegial approach of the staff under the excellent leadership of the Principal to addressing the areas for improvement identified at the time of the inspection;
- the rigorous and systematic use of a wide range of qualitative and quantitative data to track the children's progress and identify underachievement at an early stage;

- the improvement in the standards achieved by the children in English and mathematics which are now very good;
- the improved planning for literacy across the school and the incorporation of active learning strategies which has led to improvement in the teaching and learning;
- the thorough review of the safeguarding arrangements which now comply fully with Department of Education (DE) circulars; and
- the significant improvements in the interior and exterior learning environments.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is 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.

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the future needs of the children and the staff.

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