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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**

**Stanhope Street Nursery School  
Belfast**

**June 2011**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF STANHOPE STREET NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT13 1BX (111-6157)**

The original inspection of Stanhope Street Nursery School in March 2010 highlighted strengths in the ethos and the effective group sessions. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- develop a more consistently high quality of staff interaction and management of daily routines to promote the children's learning;
- develop the planning and assessment methods to tailor the programme to the needs of all of the children; and
- improve the processes for self-evaluation and whole school improvement.

In the interval since the inspection, the Principal has returned from a period of absence. There has been a series of absences among the staff which has, at times, impacted negatively on the rate and pace of continuous improvement.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out three monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on Thursday 16 June 2011.

The action plan produced by the nursery school in response to the inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The nursery school's development plan is due to be adjusted again in light of the follow-up inspection findings.

### **The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection:**

- the staff have higher expectations of the children and their interaction with the children is now more effective in promoting the children's independence, settled play, and their language and learning;
- the daily routines are well organised and are used more effectively to promote the children's responsibility, language and social skills;
- the quality of the provision and the pre-school curriculum is of a higher standard, in particular, the children show an increased interest in books and mark-making, being creative, playing imaginatively and investigating natural items;
- the planning highlights the learning intentions more clearly and is better linked to the assessment information to identify the support required for individual and groups of children;
- the school is beginning to develop a more robust culture of consultation, collaboration and self-evaluation; and
- the quality of the learning environment has been improved and now provides more richly resourced and challenging areas of play.

**The areas for continued development include the need to:**

- continue to develop a team approach to ongoing school development through the sharing of best practice, ongoing staff development and effective communication; and
- develop the use of planning and assessment further.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery school is now good. The nursery school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the nursery school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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