



*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

**Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit
Belfast**

June 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TAUGHMONAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT, BELFAST, BT9 6QL (101-0301)

The original inspection of Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit in November 2010 highlighted strengths in the positive ethos, the quality of the teaching in the primary school and the broad range of activities provided in the nursery unit.

It also highlighted the following areas for improvement in the primary school:

- the need for more rigorous and focused monitoring and evaluation at all levels which focuses more clearly on outcomes and raising the standards for the children, particularly in their written work; and
- the need for more focused support and training to address the inadequacies in the quality of provision within the nursery unit and to ensure systematic progression in learning through the Early Years to optimise the effectiveness of early intervention,

and the following areas for improvement in the nursery unit:

- the quality of the staff's interaction with the children to foster the children's language and learning more consistently;
- all areas of the pre-school curriculum to ensure quality and progression of provision leading to better outcomes for the children; and
- the effective use of the records of children's progress to inform the short-term planning and match activities more closely to the children's individual needs and stages of development.

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

- the staff have received support from the Belfast and Education Library Board (BELB);
- the school and the nursery unit have moved from their original premises into new accommodation on the same site during the period of the follow-up inspection process;
- there have been a number of staff changes and redeployment of responsibilities including the appointment of a new assistant teacher in the nursery unit who took up post in September 2012; and
- the staff have attended a range of relevant training.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a total of three monitoring visits in the primary School and nursery unit and a follow up inspection on the 11 June 2012.

The action plans received by the Department of Education following the inspection was of a good quality and were adjusted appropriately in the light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the interim visits. The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements in the primary school and nursery unit since the original inspection:

- the leadership and management are more rigorous in monitoring and evaluating the quality of the teaching and learning and more focused on raising standards;
- the staff have increased their level of expectations of what the children can achieve and have improved their level of expertise in identifying the next steps to take to ensure the children continue to improve;
- there is evidence of improving trends in the quality of the children's written work in the primary school and the overall standards they attain;
- the effective identification and dissemination of areas of expertise and best practice have contributed positively to building the capacity and ongoing professional development of the staff;
- the teachers planning and evaluations are better focused on learning and outcomes for the children;
- the staff in the nursery unit demonstrate a much clearer shared understanding of the pre- school curriculum and its links with the foundation stage leading to higher quality in the teaching and learning in all six areas of the pre-school curriculum;
- there are more effective collaborative working practices ensuring a more consistent approach to all aspects of the work within the nursery unit;
- the children in the nursery unit are more independent and are developing more sustained levels of involvement in their play; and
- the new accommodation, room layout and effective use of resources have contributed significantly to improving the quality of the learning environment in both the school and the nursery unit.

The Principal has very effectively led the hard-working and committed staff team and governors through a cycle of review and development planning leading to continuous improvement. There is a strong reflective approach and improved processes for self-evaluation. The school values and benefited from professional support provided by the BELB.

The areas which need further improvement are the need to:

- make consistent use of assessment information to inform teaching and learning;
- continue to develop the planning and resources for outdoor play in the nursery unit; and
- maintain and embed the current changes in both the primary school and the nursery unit to ensure continued improvements in the children's standards and achievements.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is good and the quality of education provided by this nursery unit is also good. The school and the nursery unit have important strengths in most of the educational and pastoral provision. The follow up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement which need to be developed further but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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