



*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**

**Tullygally Primary School  
Lurgan**

**May 2012**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF TULLYGALLY PRIMARY SCHOOL, LURGAN, CO ARMAGH, BT65 5AA (501-1190)**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a focused inspection of Tullygally Primary School in the week of 28 February 2011 when the quality of the provision was evaluated as inadequate; as a result the school entered the formal intervention process. The Department of Education (DE) indicated at the time that a follow-up inspection (FUI) would take place and that, in the interim, a follow-up visit (IFUV) would monitor the progress being made in bringing about the necessary improvements.

The original inspection highlighted strengths which included:

- the friendly, courteous children;
- the well-ordered learning environment;
- the very good provision in the nursery unit and the standards achieved by the pre-school children; and
- the development of the children's personal and social skills through a wide range of strategies and programmes.

The inspection also identified important areas for improvement, including the need:

- to provide effective leadership, including the rigorous monitoring and evaluation of the quality of learning and teaching, to inform the school's development planning process and to bring about better educational outcomes for the children;
- for the teachers to develop a shared understanding of what constitutes effective learning and teaching at all levels and to raise their expectations of what the children can achieve; and
- to improve the inadequate standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy.

The ETI carried out an IFUV on 9 March 2012 and conducted the FUI on 16 and 17 May 2012.

The school received extensive support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) of the Southern Education and Library Board (SELB) in developing the action plans to address the key areas for improvement identified in the original inspection report. The action plans produced by the school were of good quality and the school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The Principal and the Chair of the governors report that the school has received well-focused support from the CASS of the SELB.

The following important changes, which affect the work of the school, have taken place since the inspection:

- the teaching staff has been reduced by one and two teachers have been re-deployed;

- the library has been restocked and the school has purchased additional reading materials for use in the foundation stage (FS) and key stage 1;
- the consultation with parents has informed the school's communication process with the parents about their children's progress; and
- the roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators have been reviewed.

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

- the quality of the teaching observed during the FUI, with most of the lessons being satisfactory or better;
- the effectiveness of the procedures to involve all members of staff in the school's decision-making processes to bring about improvement in learning and teaching;
- the improved standards attained by the children in their extended writing and reading by the end of year 7;
- the strategies used to evaluate the quality of the children's learning in mathematics and numeracy and to identify appropriate priorities for whole-school development; and
- the quality and effectiveness of the Principal's leadership and management which is now satisfactory.

While the school has made progress in important aspects of its work, the standards attained by the children across the key stages in numeracy, and by the end of the FS in literacy, remain inadequate. The areas for improvement in the quality of provision continue to outweigh the strengths in the provision and remain to be addressed urgently if the school is to meet effectively the needs of all of the children. Overall, the quality of education provided by the school remains inadequate.

The main areas for improvement include the need:

- for each of the teachers to take responsibility for the consistent year-on-year progress in the children's learning in order to raise the standards which they attain in literacy and numeracy;
- for the Principal and the teachers to ensure that the quality of the teaching is consistently good or better; and
- for the staff to complete more rigorous evaluation of the quality of the children's learning and use the outcomes to identify and implement the specific actions which will lead to improvement in the overall quality of provision.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will carry out a further FUI within 12 months and a report will be published.

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 current and future needs of the children and the staff.

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