



*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

**West Winds Primary School Nursery Unit
Newtownards**

January 2014

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF WEST WINDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, NURSERY UNIT, NEWTOWNARDS. CO DOWN, BT23 4RQ (401-6083)

The original inspection of West Winds Primary School's Nursery Unit in 2012 highlighted strengths in the development of the children's personal social and emotional skills; their ability to play independently and collaboratively for sustained periods and their ability to make independent choices.

The inspection also highlighted the need to:

- develop further the short-term planning, for both indoor and outdoor play,
- develop comprehensive methods of observing and recording the children's progress and the use of this information to guide the planning process to meet more effectively the children's learning across all areas of the curriculum, and
- ensure that the learning potential inherent in the activities is more consistently exploited by the staff.

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

- a new teacher was employed took up post in September 2012;
- the teacher and nursery assistant are receiving training through the Special Educational Needs (SEN) capacity building pilot;
- the staff have been provided with opportunities to visit other pre-school settings; and
- additional resources have been purchased to support the children's learning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 31 January 2014.

The action plans received by the Department of Education following the inspection were of a good quality.

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

- the principal has given a high priority to developing the work within the nursery unit which includes the provision of additional resources and time for the staff to visit other pre-school settings; these actions have had a positive impact on the quality of the unit's provision;
- the new team work together effectively and have brought about important improvements in the units provision;
- both members of the nursery unit staff are benefitting from their involvement in the SEN early years capacity building pilot and the improvements are evident through their more effective engagement with the children;
- the staff exploit more effectively the learning inherent in the play activities and are excellent role models in their work with the children;

- there is evidence of ongoing improvement in all aspects of the unit's work which is brought about by the staff's emphasis on reflection and self-evaluation;
- the planning now provides a good overview of how the children's learning will progress throughout the year and is sufficiently detailed to guide the staff in their day-to-day work with the children;
- the staff know the children well; they have experimented with methods of observation and assessment and have appropriately identified the need to refine the process further; and
- the staff have developed aspects of the provision for outdoor play but it will be important that they continue to develop the outdoor area and plan effectively for the development of a wide range of physical skills and learning outdoors.

Conclusion

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery unit is now very good. The nursery unit is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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