



*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

**Whitehouse Primary School Nursery Unit
Newtownabbey**

December 2013

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF WHITEHOUSE PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, NEWTOWNABBEY, CO ANTRIM, BT37 9NZ (301-0827)

The inspection of Whitehouse Primary School nursery unit in June 2011, evaluated the provision overall as satisfactory. The inspection identified the need for the nursery unit to:

- improve the quality of the provision in one of the classrooms; and
- continue to improve the quality of the teaching across the nursery unit.

Since the first follow-up inspection visit in 2011 there have been a number of significant changes to the staffing and accommodation. A new principal for the primary school was appointed and took up post in April 2012; a new nursery unit teacher was appointed and took up post in August 2013 and one of the job share teachers in the nursery unit changed to a full time contract.

The following are the most important improvements that have taken place since the first follow-up inspection:

- the much improved collegial and strategic approach to the development of the nursery unit provision; this is evidenced through the very strong sense of team work at all levels that includes the nursery unit staff, principal and a recently formed early years team with links to the primary school;
- the improved quality of teaching and learning throughout the whole nursery with the staff all contributing to effective interaction with the children to promote settled play, language and learning;
- the good or very good opportunities for children to learn in all aspects of the pre-school curriculum indoors with particular strengths being the promotion of the children's independence, creativity, exploration and investigation;
- the more effective record keeping and assessment of the children's achievements with clear evidence of progress particularly in their personal, social and emotional development;
- the new accommodation and resources that provide a higher quality learning environment which is enhanced by very attractive displays of the children's well developed art work and meaningful captions of their language and creative ideas; and
- the more robust processes in place for systematic self-evaluation, monitoring and evaluation linked closely to the whole school development planning process.

Conclusion

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery unit is good. There are important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the primary school nursery unit has demonstrated the capacity to address.

The following are the key areas for continued improvement:

- to continue to develop and improve the use of all of the space indoors and outdoors for learning; and
- to ensure the range of planned learning experiences and activities match the full range of the children's needs and abilities.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the nursery unit on the areas for improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2014

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website:
www.etini.gov.uk

