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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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Area-Based Inspection

**Holy Child Nursery School
Belfast**

March 2009

AREA-BASED INSPECTION - WEST BELFAST AREA 2009: STRATEGIC PLANNING, COHERENCE IN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI), carried out an area-based inspection in Holy Child Nursery School, Belfast during March 2009.

Strengths include:

- the outstanding quality of the self-evaluation process carried out in consultation with key stakeholders in the local community leading to the development of a very effective School Development Plan;
- the outstanding leadership of the nursery school Principal who demonstrates strategic vision for the current and future needs of the nursery school within the local community, and the dedicated teachers and support staff who work as a team to offer outstanding educational and pastoral provision;
- the skill of the staff in their interaction with the children across all areas of the curriculum, in particular the development of early language and literacy skills, mathematical language, creativity and physical activity, and an appreciation of the area "The World Around Us";
- the outstanding management of the transition arrangements at the beginning and end of the pre-school year, the effective formal and informal links with receiving schools, the very good quality of the pastoral and curricular information transferred, and the use made of external agencies to meet the personal, social and educational needs of the children;
- the outstanding quality of pastoral care provided for the children; and
- the outstanding observation and assessment strategies which inform the detailed and progressive planning to meet the individual personal, social, emotional and educational needs of the children.

The overall composite report for the area-based inspection raises some important recurring areas for improvement. While these are not applicable in all the individual organisations, they are nevertheless important to address across the West Belfast area.

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