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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

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Ardstraw Primary School
Newtownstewart

December 2006

FOLLOW UP TO THE NEW MODEL PILOT INSPECTION OF ARDSTRAW PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTOWNSTEWART, CO TYRONE, BT78 4LA (201-6376)

The New Model Pilot Inspection in February 2005 highlighted strengths in the school's provision, including the very caring and supportive ethos, the dedicated and hard-working staff, the well-behaved and courteous children, examples of good teaching, the commitment of the Principal to school improvement, the strong support of parents and the high standing of the school in the community.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key area:

- the need to monitor and evaluate effectively the learning and teaching in a systematic way in order to raise standards.

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

- Planning for lessons is more detailed and includes regular evaluation of the effectiveness of the teaching.
- A whole-school programme to improve teaching and learning in Literacy, and, in particular, the children's writing, has been implemented.
- The children's standards in English and mathematics are monitored systematically through the gathering and analysis of school performance data.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 5 December 2006.

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

- the planning for teaching is more coherent and focuses effectively on the learning to be achieved by the children;
- the children's writing is better structured and is used in a broader range of contexts; and
- in general, there are improvements in the children's attainments in mathematics and reading, as measured through a range of standardised tests.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the focused inspection.

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