

*eti*

*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**

**Ballyholland Primary School**  
**Newry**

**December 2006**

## **FOLLOW UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF BALLYHOLLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWRY (503-1558)**

The focused inspection in October 2004, highlighted strengths in the work of the school, the caring ethos, the good relationships at all levels, the pleasant and courteous children and the commitment of the Principal and staff to school improvement. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop a more systematic approach to ongoing assessment to guide more effectively the teachers' planning to meet the differing needs and abilities of the children in each class;
- to ensure that the children have more opportunities to use and develop their literacy skills across the curriculum; and
- to provide further opportunities for the children to develop their skills across all four strands of information and communication technology (ICT).

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

- the school acquired additional resources for literacy and ICT;
- there has been relevant and effective staff development;
- an ever increasing focus on monitoring and evaluating the life and work of the school; and
- the school received excellent support from the Southern Education and Library Board Curriculum, Advisory and Support Service.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 6 December 2006.

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

- the professionalism and hard work of the Principal and all of the staff in addressing the areas for improvement identified at the time of the focused inspection;
- effective strategies to match the work more consistently to individuals and groups of children through, even more regular assessment by the staff of their systems of short-term planning and in classrooms by employing a much wider range of learning and teaching strategies;
- a review of the provision in structured play which is having a positive impact on the children's progression in learning in the early years;

- the very good emphasis placed on promoting independent, imaginative and creative writing which is having a positive effect on the teaching of English, on the children's learning and in higher standards being achieved;
- the ongoing commitment, development and implementation of more rigorous procedures to monitor and evaluate the life and work of the school. These include the monitoring of planning and children's work by senior management with an increasing role for curriculum and key stage co-ordinators;
- the effective and often imaginative use of ICT in supporting learning and teaching across the curriculum; and
- the hard work of the Principal and his teaching staff who are clearly committed to enhancing and promoting the work of the school.

As part of the follow-up inspection process, the school conducted its own evaluation of the progress in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Principal and his co-ordinators submitted self-evaluative reports to the Inspectorate setting out their work and comments findings.

The inspection confirms that, through effective whole-school planning and self-evaluation, the school has identified appropriately its priorities for current and future development and improvement.

There were strengths in the school's approach to self-evaluation. The quality of the reports and supporting documentation were excellent. The reports provided clear evidence of the very good progress made following the inspection. The processes used to gather the evidence were effective. The Inspectorate confirms that the findings and recommendations contained in the self-evaluative reports are accurate and appropriate, and are an effective response to the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection report.

The school has made excellent progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the focused inspection.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2007

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 DE website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.