



*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

**Brooklands Primary School
Dundonald**

May 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF BROOKLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNDONALD, BELFAST, BT16 2PA (401-6503)

The focused inspection in February 2008 highlighted strengths in the school's provision that included:

- the caring, friendly and welcoming atmosphere and the courteous behaviour of the children;
- the strong support of the parents and the Governors and the school's high standing in the community;
- the quality of pastoral care;
- the good standards being achieved by the children at the end of year 7.

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

- the need to review the roles and the responsibilities of curriculum leaders and senior management to work collaboratively on policies and practices of school improvement for the purpose of further raising standards; and
- the need to develop further the self-evaluation process through lesson observation in order to monitor and evaluate the quality of teaching and learning in numeracy and share good practice.

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

- the establishment of an effective approach to self-evaluation across the whole school;
- weekly time-tabling arrangements to release curriculum leaders for monitoring and evaluation; in four of the curriculum areas their role includes class observation and feedback, formal and informal;
- the linkage of pupil self and peer assessment to teacher's self-evaluation;
- the appointment of new co-ordinators for World Around Us and Art and Design;
- whole staff South-Eastern Education and Library Board training on the electronic analysis of standardised scores and numeracy training on the effective use of standardised tests;
- the development of six weekly plans to incorporate revised curriculum, differentiation and learning intentions;
- the construction of an outdoor play structure and the updating of the computer suite; and
- the setting up of a Pupil Council.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits, an interim follow-up visit and a follow-up inspection on 21 May 2010.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality.

The School Development Plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan now meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

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

- The development and implementation, through the revision of the SDP, of a comprehensive school improvement programme comprising both effective self-evaluation and the good beginning of the use of data-analysis to inform realistic target setting.
- A culture of openness, sharing, mutual support and collaboration which has led to notable improvements in the planning and provision for numeracy.
- The clarification and the development of the roles, capabilities and responsibilities of curriculum coordinators and curriculum panels and the effective leadership of the senior management.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now very good. The school 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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