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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

**Bunscoil an Chaistil
Ballycastle**

January 2008

FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF BUNSCOIL AN CHAISTIL, BALLYCASTLE, CO ANTRIM BT54 6QQ (304-6653)

The focused inspection of Bunscoil an Chaistil in November 2005 highlighted the strengths of the school including:

- the courteous and respectful children;
- the strong sense of community;
- the links with Naíscoil an Chaistil and the wider community;
- the sense of team-work among the teachers;
- the hard-working and committed teachers; and
- the strengths evident in much of the teaching which was always satisfactory and on occasions very good.

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

- to ensure urgently that all training, documentation and procedures relating to pastoral care and child protection comply with the requirements of the Department of Education (DE) Circulars 1999/10 and 2003/13;
- to provide a more balanced and challenging programme in mathematics; and
- to identify more sharply areas for development in relation to the curriculum and staff training to promote improvements in learning and teaching.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place:

- the Principal has completed the Professional Qualification for Headship with the Regional Training Unit; and
- the school has embraced a programme of development and improvement under the guidance of officers from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) of the North-Eastern Education and Library Board and the inter-board Irish-medium CASS team.

The Education and Training Inspectorate visited the school in February and March 2007 and carried out a follow-up inspection on 8 January 2008.

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

- the school's development plan has been reviewed and adjusted in light of the inspection findings;

- the school has thoroughly reviewed and amended its arrangements for pastoral care and child protection and they now implement fully the guidance outlined in the relevant DE circulars;
- with CASS support the school has drawn up schemes of work for mathematics throughout the school ensuring balance, progression, differentiation and challenge; and
- with CASS support the school has put a challenging programme of staff development in place with a clear focus on the curriculum, learning and teaching, self-evaluation and improvement.

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 and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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