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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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin
Belfast**

January 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF BUNSCOIL BHEANN MHADAGÁIN, BELFAST, BT14 6HP (104-6596)

The focused inspection in April 2007 highlighted strengths in the good working relationships and the high levels of motivation and interest of the children, the quality of teaching in the majority of lessons, and the opportunities for the children to contribute to decision making and the range of extra-curricular activities. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following areas:

- the need to comply more fully with Department of Education (DE) circulars, in particular, with regard to the vetting of teachers;
- the need to focus more sharply on raising the standards of the children's work in literacy; and
- the need for management to provide greater strategic direction to the work of the school.

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

- a number of changes to the staffing arrangements in the school; and
- the effective engagement by the staff, led well by the Principal, in a range of professional development activities, supported by officers of the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Belfast Education and Library Board and the Inter-board Irish-medium team focusing on raising standards in literacy.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 20 January 2010.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The school's Development Plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The Development Plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by DE.

The following are the most important improvements made:

- the school's development of a range of policies and procedures that reflects the guidance issued by DE, in particular the vetting of teachers and the Code of Conduct;
- the implementation of a whole-school literacy scheme that guides effectively the work in promoting the development of the children's literacy skills;
- the steady improvement in the standards achieved by the children in literacy; and
- the processes of monitoring and evaluating the learning and teaching, the progress made by pupils and the overall quality of provision.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

ACCOMMODATION

- The school's accommodation remains inadequate and falls far short of acceptable standards.

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