



*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 Cholmcille and Naíscoil Dhoire
Derry**

June 2011

FOLLOW UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF BUNSCOIL CHOLMCILLE AND NAÍScoil DHOIRE, DERRY (203-6574)

The focused inspection in January 2009 highlighted strengths in the quality of the arrangements for pastoral care; the behaviour of the children and their positive attitude towards learning; the commitment of the staff; the quality of the teaching observed; the link between assessment and classroom practice; and the quality of the work of the co-ordinators. In the naíscoil the inspection highlighted strengths in the stimulating learning environment; the good relationships with parents; the competence of the staff in the Irish language; and the hard work and commitment of the staff.

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

- to review the deployment of staff and resources to meet more effectively the needs of all of the children;
- to produce a more comprehensive and collaborative school development plan (SDP), to set out the long-term vision for the school, including the actions to improve the opportunities the children have to apply their learning in a variety of settings and to secure the future viability of the school;
- to promote the work of the school through the greater involvement of governors, parents and the wider community;

and in the naíscoil:

- to review the settling-in procedures to ensure that the differing needs of the children are met;
- to ensure that the strategies outlined in the behaviour management policy are understood by all of the children and implemented effectively by the staff; and
- to improve the organisation of the day to ensure that all of the time is used effectively to promote learning.

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

- the Parent Teacher Governor Association was re-established; the business of these meetings is conducted in English thereby making them more accessible to all the parents;
- a new teacher was appointed to the school;
- the school received support from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Western Education and Library Board in developing post-inspection action plans, arranging visits to other schools and in the ongoing monitoring of progress;
- the school developed closer links with the local community and other neighbouring schools;

and in the naíscoil:

- the behaviour management policy was updated and shared with parents; and
- the procedures for informing parents about the nursery procedures and practices were reviewed.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 14 June 2011.

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

The school development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

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

- the SDP has been reviewed and adjusted in consultation with the teachers, the governors, the parents and the pupils, and it guides more effectively the work of the school;
- good progress has been made by the staff and governors in promoting the work of the school in the local and wider community;
- the standards attained by the children in literacy and numeracy have improved;
- the special educational needs co-ordinator has put in place a number of effective intervention measures to address more fully the varying needs of the children; there is evidence that this focused support is effecting improvement;
- staff and resources are now better deployed to meet the needs of all the children;
- the majority of the teaching observed during the follow-up inspection was good or better;

and in the naíscóil:

- the daily timetable was reviewed to ensure that all time is used more effectively to promote learning;
- there is effective teamwork among the staff who are very focused on implementing strategies to promote settled and purposeful play; and
- the settling-in procedures were reviewed and amended to ensure that the individual needs of all the children are more fully met.

CONCLUSION

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

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