



*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**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Carnmoney Primary School
Newtownabbey**

May 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF CARNMONEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTOWNABBEY, CO ANTRIM, BT36 6JS (301-3301)

The focused inspection in October 2007 highlighted strengths in the quality of the pastoral care provision and the informed and effective leadership of the Principal and the senior management team (SMT). The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the overall standards of attainment; and
- the dissemination of effective practice to promote greater consistency in the quality of learning and teaching.

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

- the school has acquired additional resources for literacy, for information and communication technology (ICT) and for play-based learning;
- the staff have accessed in-service training in phonological awareness, play-based learning and assessment for learning;
- the play policy was reviewed and updated and the teachers have revised the planning for play-based learning;
- a School Council has been established to enable the children to contribute to the work of the school; and
- the school's website has been updated in order to involve the parents more closely in the learning experiences of the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit in September 2008 and a follow-up inspection on 1 May 2009.

The school development plan (SDP) has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The SDP meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

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

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

- the effective leadership and support provided by the Principal and the SMT to improve teaching and learning at year group and key stage levels;
- the identification and dissemination of good practice within the school;
- the effective use of the school's performance data to inform the planning for teaching and learning;

- the strategies to assess the children's learning at class level and the opportunities which enable the children to set targets and evaluate their own progress;
- the engagement of the children in a broader range of writing experiences which has improved the quality of their writing;
- the more consistent, effective use of ICT to enhance the children's learning experiences across the curriculum; and
- the improvement in key stage 2 literacy and numeracy standards.

Since the inspection, the school has evaluated rigorously the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvement made, and helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through effective self-evaluation, the school demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are maintained.

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

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 children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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