



*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**

**Carrickfergus Central Primary School  
Co Antrim**

**April 2011**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF CARRICKFERGUS CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, CO ANTRIM, BT38 8AL (301-0841)**

The focused inspection in January 2009 highlighted strengths in the strong commitment of the staff to the care, health and well-being of the children, the good or better quality of most of the teaching, the good progress made in the early years in encouraging the children's independence and active participation in their learning and the many opportunities provided for the parents to contribute to their child's learning and to become involved in the life and work of the school.

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

- to plan and implement teaching strategies which are better matched to meet the needs of all the children; and
- to establish a more rigorous approach to monitoring and evaluation to raise further the standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy.

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

- a number of support officers from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service have supported the staff in developing their literacy, numeracy and assessment programmes;
- a literacy support assistant has been trained to deliver the Better Reading Partnerships programme;
- regular opportunities have been introduced for the teachers to plan and receive together relevant training under the key areas;
- the roles and responsibilities for the co-ordinators particularly relating to monitoring and evaluating, have been clarified;
- additional reading resources have been purchased and banded;
- a new whole-school scheme for writing has been developed; and
- the effective use of data to track the children's progress and to set appropriate targets at whole school, key stage, class and individual level for improvement;

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out one monitoring visit in May 2010 and a follow-up inspection in April 2011.

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

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

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

- baseline positions within the priority action plans are based on first hand evidence, including that from classroom observations;
- the children participating in the targeted support programmes are making significant progress;
- in the lessons observed, the teachers matched effectively the work of the children's abilities while having realistically high expectations for the standards they will achieve;
- the quality of the interaction is improved and includes effective questioning and a broad range of strategies to promote and sustain the children's responses;
- the school can demonstrate through their internal data, good year on year progress made by most of the children;
- during the follow-up the quality of teaching in the lessons observed was consistently very good; and
- a culture of self-evaluation is now embedded, which enables the school to demonstrate clear evidence of improvement.

## **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 school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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