



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



Providing Inspection Services for
**Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Creavery Primary School
Antrim**

June 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF CREAVERY PRIMARY SCHOOL, ANTRIM, BT41 2LH (301-0741)

The focused inspection in February 2004 highlighted many strengths including: the caring family ethos, the excellent relationships at all levels, the dedicated teachers who encourage and support the children well, the high level of parental and governors' support for the work of the school, the responsive and well-mannered children, the instances of good to excellent teaching observed, the developing work in mental mathematics and the good use of practical resources to enhance the children's understanding of mathematical concepts.

As areas for improvement, the inspection identified the need to:

- extend the children's mathematical experiences through increasing the opportunities for investigation and problem solving;
- have more effective integration of information and communications technology (ICT) into the curriculum to support the children's learning; and
- use assessment in a more focused manner to ensure progression and to match the learning more fully to the children's needs.

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

- the school has reviewed and up-dated its policies in mathematics, ICT and marking to take account of the inspection findings;
- the teachers have ensured that there are more opportunities for practical maths and ICT activities in their planning;
- the school has purchased a range of resources to support its work in developing the children's thinking in mathematics;
- the school has been involved in a successful project to develop thinking skills in mathematics through the Development and Dissemination of Good Practice initiative;
- the staff have attended a range of appropriate courses, particularly on the development of thinking skills;
- the school has increased and up-dated its ICT facilities;
- the school has reviewed and revised the annual reports to parents; and
- the school has revised its methods of assessment to allow it to support individual children better and to inform the teachers' planning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection in June 2007.

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

- across the school, the children have increasing opportunities to investigate and solve problems in mathematics, with useful links to other areas of the curriculum and the good development of mathematical language;
- there is evidence that the teachers are introducing some of the ideas learned from attendance at courses, including the training for the revised curriculum, into their planning and teaching;
- there are many good examples of the effective integration of ICT across the curriculum, and an appropriate system for monitoring the progression of the children across the school;
- there has been an improvement in the levels achieved in the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment Key Stage 2 accreditation scheme;
- the teachers are recording and using assessment more effectively to ensure progression, in particular introducing recently a range of marking strategies which has the potential to guide the children more clearly towards improvement.

The current school development plan has been adjusted, as appropriate, to reflect and build upon the good work which has been done since the last inspection.

The school has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the school's commitment to, and action for, improvement, and the effectiveness of its response to the findings of the focused inspection.

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