

eti

*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Donaghadee Primary School
Co Down**

January 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF DONAGHADEE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CO DOWN, BT21 0BD (401-1654)

The focused inspection in May 2005 highlighted strengths including the very positive caring ethos; the quality of the pastoral care; the exemplary behaviour of the children; the effective leadership of the Principal and the hard-working staff. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- a continuing focus on the further improvement of the standards and outcomes expected at the end of each key stage;
- the dissemination of the good or very good practice that already existed; and
- an increased use of the qualitative and quantitative data the school had collated to improve further the learning and teaching.

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

- the school has employed additional classroom assistants to give in-class support to those children who require additional support with aspects of their learning;
- the curricular leadership roles and responsibilities of the staff have been developed further;
- additional materials have been purchased to support the development of literacy in key stage 2, and the staff collectively look at the children's workbooks in order to promote improvement in the children's learning;
- the staff have attended relevant courses and some have visited other schools to observe practice;
- the staff received some helpful support from members of the South-Eastern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service; and
- the staff have worked hard to disseminate the good or very good practice more widely throughout the school.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 30 January 2007.

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

- the good quality development plan which is supplemented by detailed action plans;
- the review of the planning for the structured play programme and for year 7, with a greater focus on the learning outcomes expected;
- the greater integration and use of information and communication technology facilities including the effective use of the interactive whiteboard;
- the extensive use made of internal and external assessment data to set targets and evaluate the effectiveness of the learning and teaching;

- the stronger focus on matching work to the ability of the children, and reporting to the parents on their children's progress;
- the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the quality of classroom teaching and learning, carried out by the Principal and subject co-ordinators; and
- the collegial approach of the teaching and support staff in which the classroom assistants play a growing and essential role in supporting the teaching and learning.

As part of the follow-up inspection process, the school conducted its own evaluation of the progress in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The school submitted a self-evaluative report to the Inspectorate setting out its findings.

The inspection confirms that, through effective self-evaluation, the school has identified appropriately its priorities for future development and improvement.

There are many significant strengths in the school's approach to self-evaluation. The quality of the report was good; it provided clear evidence of good progress made following the inspection. The processes used to gather the evidence were effective. The Inspectorate confirms that the findings and recommendations contained in the self-evaluative report are accurate and appropriate, and are an effective response to the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection report. The school development plan has been adjusted accordingly.

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

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2007

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.