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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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

**Dunclug Primary School
Ballymena**

September 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF DUNCLUG PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYMENA, CO ANTRIM, BT43 6SU (301-6063)

The focused inspection of Dunclug Primary School, Ballymena in April 2005 highlighted strengths in the caring community ethos and the pastoral care of the children, the excellent behaviour of the children, the comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities, the caring hard-working staff, the high quality of much of the teaching, the good standards achieved in mathematics, the good use of information and communication technology to extend and enhance the children's learning, the provision for children requiring help with aspects of their learning and the effective leadership of the Principal.

As an area for improvement, the inspection identified the need to:

- develop further the children's ability to assess their own performance and help them identify ways to improve the quality of their work.

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

- the appointment of a new Principal;
- the reduction in the number of teaching staff;
- the completion of a school audit of effective learning and teaching strategies; and
- the creation of a new school development plan and associated action plans that focus appropriately on raising standards.

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

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

- the further development of the children's learning skills through an appropriate focus by the teachers on independent learning;
- the effective use by teachers of resource materials, to help the children assess the quality of their own work and set targets for improvement; and
- the further development of the children's talking and listening skills.

Good progress has been made in the area for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are being well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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