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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Edwards Primary School
Castleberg**

October 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF EDWARDS PRIMARY SCHOOL, CASTLEDERG, CO TYRONE, BT81 7HY (201-2638)

The short inspection in October 2005 highlighted strengths in the quality of the teaching, and the behaviour and application to their work of the children. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- update current procedures and implement fully the guidance outlined in the Department of Education (DE) Circular 1999/10, 'Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection' and in Circular 2003/13, 'Welfare and Protection of Pupils, Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order';
- review, revise and implement a School Development Plan to take full account of the requirements of Education (School Development Plans) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, and enable the leadership of the school to monitor and evaluate rigorously and consistently, the quality of teaching and learning; and
- provide a broader range of strategies to support the varying needs of the children within the Special Unit classes.

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

- a new Principal was appointed in September 2006;
- a comprehensive whole-school audit of provision helped to identify a range of pastoral and curricular priorities; and
- there has been a significant focus on promoting and enhancing the children's learning opportunities, including participation in the Dyslexia Friendly School initiative.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 23 October 2007.

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

- the guidance outlined in DE Circulars 1999/10 and 2003/13 has been implemented fully; all the required policies and procedures relating to Child Protection are in place;
- a detailed School Development Plan and the accompanying action plans have been drawn up and implemented. The plan provides strategic direction to the work of the school and focuses appropriately on the quality of teaching and learning, and the standards the children attain; and
- the children in the Special Unit classes are benefiting from a broader range of teaching strategies.

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 short inspection.

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