

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir  
Derry**

**June 2016**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GAELSCOIL ÉADAIN MHÓIR, DERRY, BT48 6NP (204-6646)**

The original inspection carried out in October 2014 concluded that in most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school was satisfactory; the strengths outweighed areas for improvement in the provision.

The areas for improvement included the need to:

- ensure consistency of best practice in learning and teaching for all the children;
- raise further the standards in literacy and numeracy; and
- develop a more rigorous process for monitoring and evaluating the children's learning experiences.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out monitoring visits in October 2015 and March 2016.

The action plans received by the Department of Education following the inspection were of a good quality.

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

- the staff have visited a number of other schools to observe practice and learn from the experience and expertise of other practitioners;
- there has been significant staff development in aspects of literacy and leadership and management;
- key co-ordinator roles have been re-designated;
- an education sub-committee has been established on the board of governors, to which the principals reports on a regular basis; and
- the staff have reviewed their method of short-term planning and have adopted a weekly system of planning for learning across the curriculum.

### **Key Findings**

- The standards and achievements of the children in literacy and numeracy are now good. The children across the school are more actively involved in their learning, show good levels of independence and effective self-management skills and work very well in small groups and pairs.
- The quality of the provision for learning is now good. The quality of learning and teaching observed during the follow-up process was good in almost of the lessons observed, and very good in a majority of the lessons. The teachers have developed a more connected and effective approach to short-term planning and continue to improve their understanding of completing regular evaluations which are more focused on the children's learning and, in the best practice, are used effectively to inform future planning and practice. The quality of the play-based learning in the foundation stage is now very good.

- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now very good. There is a significantly increased confidence and capacity within the senior leadership team in leading and managing their respective areas of responsibility, through action planning that is based on critical self-evaluation and underpinned by continuing professional development. A range of internal data, and relevant evidence from robust monitoring and evaluating, is being used more effectively to track progress and identify priorities for improvement at individual, key stage and whole-school level.

### **Overall effectiveness**

Gaelscoil Éadain Mhóir has demonstrated the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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