



*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**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Greyabbey Primary School
Co Down**

May 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GREYABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTOWNARDS, CO. DOWN, BT22 2QA (401-1300)

The short inspection in November 2007 highlighted strengths in the school which included the positive ethos; the caring family atmosphere; the good working relationships between staff and children; the quality of the lessons observed; and the support of the parents, governors and wider community for the work of the school.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop monitoring and evaluation of the work of the school, and ensure more rigorous and consistent analysis and use of the assessment data to improve further the learning and teaching;
- to develop the management role of the co-ordinators and to continue to develop a culture of self-reflection and evaluation; and
- to develop the use of information and communication technology (ICT) and the progression of the children's skills in all four strands of ICT.

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

- A secretary has been employed to assist with the administration of the school.
- Co-ordinators have been created for the key areas of the curriculum.
- All members of the staff have undergone additional training related to their new roles and responsibilities.
- The staff used 'Together Towards Improvement' to assist them with the process of self-evaluation.
- Views of parents were sought through the use of questionnaires.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit in February 2009 and a follow-up inspection on 19 May 2009.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan partially meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education in the School Development Plans Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005.

Very good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

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

- the creation of, and significant developments in, the roles and responsibilities of the subject co-ordinators;

- the regular classroom observations by the Principal and the new co-ordinators to monitor, evaluate and review the quality of learning and teaching;
- the good progress made in developing lines of progression and the tracking of the children's progress in ICT;
- the good start made to using a range of assessment data to set targets for individual children;
- the wide range of additional training undertaken by all of the staff to support the development of their roles and responsibilities within the school; and
- the conscientious and effective leadership of the Principal who has encouraged a collegial approach to ongoing school improvement through self-evaluation, and has provided a clear vision for the future development of the work of the school.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvement made, and helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through the process of self-evaluation, the school demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are maintained and further developed.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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