

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

**Maine Integrated Primary School
Randalstown**

March 2009

**FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MAINE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL,
RANDALSTOWN, CO ANTRIM, BT41 3AH (306-6652)**

The focused inspection in May 2007 highlighted strengths in the very positive ethos within the school, the quality of the teaching and the very good leadership of the Principal. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the integration of information and communication technology (ICT) into the teaching and learning; and
- the process of monitoring and evaluation, particularly in relation to the standards in aspects of English.

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

- an increase in the enrolment from 73 to 100;
- the appointment of an additional teacher in September 2008;
- the appointment of an ICT co-ordinator and a special educational needs co-ordinator in September 2008;
- two additional mobile classrooms have been acquired and improvements have been made to the staff and office facilities and the outdoor play areas;
- the security arrangements in the school have been reviewed and improved;
- additional resources have been acquired for ICT, literacy, and special educational needs and for play equipment in the foundation stage;
- the staff have accessed relevant in-service training, particularly in relation to ICT and the revised curriculum;
- five members of the Board of Governors have accessed training in procedures related to the vetting of staff; and
- the learning support staff have accessed training in the Reading Partnership programme.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit in September 2008 and a follow-up inspection on 18 March 2009.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality.

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

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

- the revision of the school's policies and procedures for safeguarding the children;
- the very effective guidance and support provided for all staff by the ICT co-ordinator, in particular, the update of the ICT policy and the very good use being made in all classes of the newly-acquired resources;
- the range of strategies which have been put in place to monitor and evaluate the quality of the teaching and learning;
- the development of a scheme of work for writing and agreed approaches to the teaching of phonics and spelling;
- the opportunities for the children to engage in the self-evaluation of their work, which includes individual target setting;
- the good use made by staff of available performance data to inform their planning and track the children's progress; and
- the valuable contribution made by classroom assistants to the learning experiences of the children, in particular, their work as Reading Partners in helping raise the standards achieved by those children who require additional support with literacy.

Since the inspection, the school has evaluated rigorously the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

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 effective self-evaluation, the school demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are maintained.

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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

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.