



*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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Millisle Primary School
Co Down**

February 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF MILLISLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CO DOWN, BT22 2DD (401-1681)

The focused inspection in Millisle Primary School in January 2008 highlighted strengths in the school's ethos; the well-organised learning environment; good or better quality of the teaching; the provision for special educational needs; the effectiveness of the Principal and hard-working staff. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop a more comprehensive system to monitor and evaluate the quality of provision and the attainments of the children; and
- to ensure that the learning experiences provided are appropriately differentiated to address more closely the ability of all the children.

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

- The school has undergone considerable refurbishment.
- The special needs provision has been moved to more suitable accommodation within a mobile classroom.
- The roles and responsibilities of the teachers have been redefined; new co-ordinators for literacy and numeracy have been appointed.
- Reading Partnerships have been developed within the school.
- An attractive new library area has been created and is available to all the children.
- Currently, two temporary teachers have been employed.
- The staff have undertaken additional training in the use of data.
- All of the teachers are using a new format for planning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out three interim follow-up inspection visits and a follow-up inspection on 5 February 2010.

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

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 following are the most important improvements since the focused inspection:

- standardised tests are now administered by the same teacher to ensure a more consistent approach. The assessment co-ordinator is using Assessment Manager effectively to analyse the data from the tests to set whole class and individual pupil targets to meet the needs of all of the children more effectively;
- there is evidence of effective ongoing monitoring and evaluation, by the Principal, of classroom practice and the quality of presentation and marking in the children's books;

- the standard of marking in the children's books is consistent and of a good quality. During the follow-up inspection visit teachers were observed giving useful feedback in class to the children about the quality of their work;
- the new common format for planning provides clear guidance on the characteristics of a well-planned lesson. In the best practice teachers had outlined clear learning intentions and were observed providing clearly differentiated tasks to best meet the needs of groups and individuals within their class;
- most of the teachers demonstrate that they are becoming reflective practitioners through their meaningful and honest evaluations of their practice and are using this information effectively to inform their future planning;
- the staff have created an improved literary rich environment throughout the school. The children have opportunities to write for a wider range of purposes and audiences; their written work is celebrated and used to enhance stimulating displays around the school;
- during the visit, very good interaction was generally observed between the teachers and the children. The children are keen to talk about their work and join in group discussions;
- the play programme, for the early years, is showing some evidence of improvement. In the best practice the play programme is supporting effectively the development of the children's learning across the curriculum; and
- the Principal has worked extremely hard, with all of the staff, to address the areas identified for improvement in the original inspection. New co-ordinators for mathematics and literacy have been appointed and have worked hard to address the areas for improvement identified in the inspection.

CONCLUSION

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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