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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Millquarter Primary School
Toomebridge

June 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF MILLQUARTER PRIMARY SCHOOL, TOOMEBRIDGE, CO ANTRIM, BT41 3PY (303-0438)

The focused inspection in Millquarter Primary School in January 2006 highlighted strengths in the well behaved and mannerly children, the spacious and modern school building and the contribution of the ancillary staff.

The inspection identified as areas for improvement the need to:

- raise the expectations of what can be achieved and the standards for all of the children in the area of mathematics;
- update the Pastoral Care and Child Protection procedures in order to meet fully the requirements set out in the Department of Education (DE) Circulars 1999/10 and 2003/13; and
- provide more opportunities for all the children to be appropriately challenged or supported by undertaking purposeful, practical and investigative tasks which meet more effectively their individual needs and which allow them to demonstrate that they can apply their learning in different contexts.

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

- A new Principal was appointed in September 2006.
- Two new teachers were appointed.
- The Principal has compiled a number of important policies to guide the work of the staff, appropriate procedures for Child Protection are now in place.
- The school has introduced detailed and comprehensive planning for learning and teaching.
- The Principal has drawn up a relevant School Development Plan with detailed and specific action plans to improve the provision.
- The staff have introduced and used assessment resources to inform planning and teaching.
- The staff celebrate the children's work and display photographs and examples of their achievements throughout the school.
- The school has received effective support and guidance from the North-Eastern Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory and Support Service.
- The Principal has introduced effective methods of communicating with the parents on a regular basis and has made efforts to involve them more fully in the life and work of the school.
- The school has introduced a programme of extra -curricular activities for the children in sport and music.

- The staff have engaged more fully in sharing, discussing and disseminating their ideas and practice, facilitated by regular staff meetings.
- The staff are planning to introduce withdrawal learning support sessions for the children in need of assistance.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection in June 2007. This report also takes account of a monitoring visit in October 2006.

The following are the most important improvements brought about since the focused inspection.

- The newly appointed Principal has provided very effective curricular leadership and has implemented many significant improvements since her appointment.
- The Child Protection procedures comply with the relevant DE Circulars and the Principal has introduced effective recording and reporting procedures.
- The Principal has developed the whole-school planning, and implemented more fully the methodologies, for the teaching of mathematics throughout the school; there is evidence of differentiation in the planning for learning and teaching and the targets in the education plans are focused and measurable.
- Effective teaching strategies are now in place to provide the children with more relevant, practical, challenging and investigative tasks; the teachers involve the children more actively in their learning and promote their talking and listening skills well.
- The school has introduced a thorough process of identifying and diagnosing the learning needs of individual children.
- The staff have begun to analyse closely the performance of the children using the relevant data.
- The staff continue to be positive in reflecting on their practice.

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 focused inspection.

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