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*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**

**Naíscoil an Lóiste Úir/Naíscoil Mhic Reachtin  
Belfast**

**February 2010**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NAÍScoil AN LÓISTE ÚIR/NAÍScoil MHIC REACHTIN, BELFAST, BT14 6BP (1BB-0428)**

The inspection in May 2008 highlighted strengths in the ethos and the skill of the staff to promote language and learning. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the planning and assessment methods to ensure the children's needs are all being met;
- the skill of the staff to identify and support children with additional needs; and
- the development of the leadership and management to bring about sustained improvement.

**In the interval since the inspection, the following actions have taken place which affect the work of the naiscoil:**

- the centre has changed its name from Naíscoil an Lóiste Úir to Naíscoil Mhic Reachtin;
- there have been several changes in the leadership, assistants and early years specialist (EYS) support, including a second new leader who was appointed and took up post in August 2009 and a second new EYS who took up post in February 2008;
- a new management committee has been formed and the management structure more clearly defined; and
- the garden area to the rear of the 174 Trust building is no longer used by the children from the naiscoil.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 10 February 2010. These visits indicated that the continued high turnover of staff is having a negative impact on the achievement of sustained improvement in the standard of provision within this pre-school centre.

The action plan produced by the naiscoil in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality. The naiscoil currently has two development plans to guide the work of the committee and the staff. These should be combined to provide a clearer overview of how the resources and strategic vision for the naiscoil are linked to improvements in the quality of the provision for the children.

**The following are the most important improvements since the original inspection:**

- the newly appointed leader is a good role-model in her interactions with the children to promote language and learning and provides effective leadership within the playroom;
- the recent introduction of authentic items into areas of play is enhancing the children's experiences;
- the staff are beginning to develop some useful links with parents, the local community and relevant agencies;

- the planning identifies the learning intentions more clearly and is beginning to take account of the children's individual needs and interests;
- children with additional needs are being identified more clearly and good efforts are being made to give them appropriate support; and
- the EYS is providing good support and guidance to the staff.

**The following areas require further improvement:**

- the staff need to continue to develop the planning and observations to ensure progression in the children's learning and consistency of practice among the staff team;
- the organisation of the day needs to be reviewed to provide a better balance between freely chosen and child initiated play and group activities; and
- the management committee need to monitor and support the continuity, stability and effectiveness of the staff team.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this naíscoil remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The naíscoil has demonstrated some evidence of improvement but significant areas for improvement in learning and teaching and leadership and management remain to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met effectively.

The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the naíscoil's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

## **APPENDIX**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- In order to provide a richer and more suitable learning environment for young children, the outdoor area needs to be developed further and all supporting resources need to be made safe, cleaned and stored away when not in use. The perimeter fence is not secure.
- The procedures for pastoral care and child protection need to be clearer, consistent and shared with the parents.

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