



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



Providing Inspection Services for
**Department of Education
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Rathenraw Integrated Primary School
Antrim**

May 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF RATHENRAW INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, ANTRIM, BT41 2TA (305-6231)

The focused inspection in October 2005 highlighted strengths in the ethos of the school, the commitment of the staff and the examples of good to excellent teaching. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- a more effective strategy to meet the educational challenges identified by the school;
- the quality of the individual educational plans for those children requiring additional support; and
- the development of more effective curricular leadership.

In the interval since the inspection, the school has undergone a period of challenging circumstances and uncertainty. The following major changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- an interim management team, which included two consecutive acting principals, was established in September 2006 to progress the school's development following the retirement of the Principal;
- a new principal was appointed and took up post in January 2008;
- the school's staffing has been reduced by one teacher, in order to reduce a budgetary deficit;
- some of the roles and responsibilities of the staff have been reviewed and re-allocated;
- the school has reviewed the provision for information and communication technology and has acquired additional resources including interactive whiteboards;
- a nurture room has been established to support children with emotional and behavioural difficulties and additional resources have been acquired for literacy, numeracy and play; and
- the staff have accessed relevant in-service training.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit on 2 April 2008, and a follow-up inspection on 23 May 2008.

The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the focused inspection in October 2005:

- under the leadership of the new principal, a comprehensive and sound development plan has been drafted, which identifies appropriate short-term targets;
- a consistent rewards system has been adopted throughout the school, and useful links have been established with neighbouring schools to promote personal development and mutual understanding through joint projects;
- a variety of methods is now used to inform parents of their children's progress, and to involve them more fully in the life and work of the school;
- the teachers have reviewed and modified their curricular planning which now highlights learning intentions which are shared with the children; the curricular plans are evaluated regularly by the teachers and monitored by the Principal;
- individual education plans have been developed for those children who require additional support with their learning; and
- the staff are making better use of the available performance data to identify trends in the children's attainment and standards, and to inform future action plans.

Since the inspection, the school has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed, to focus strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

The follow-up inspection findings confirm that the school has demonstrated evidence of improvement but some areas for improvement remain to be addressed more rigorously.

The school's progress in the continuing areas for improvement will be followed-up by the District Inspector.

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