



*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

**Riverside School
Antrim**

October 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF RIVERSIDE SCHOOL, ANTRIM, BT41 4PB (331-6609)

The focused inspection in November 2007 highlighted strengths in, for example, the provision for pastoral care, the high quality of the programmes for transition and for the pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties and the strong support of the parents and the members of the Board of Governors for the work of the school. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to further develop a more systematic, formal and documented approach to the processes for monitoring and evaluating the quality of the learning and teaching; and
- to identify and disseminate the effective practice across the whole school.

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

- there have been some changes in staffing; and
- a full-time member of staff has been appointed to the autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) class.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up inspection visits and a follow-up inspection on 27 October 2009.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of 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:

- the teachers are now evaluating more effectively their own planning for learning;
- the full-time teacher is providing good support for the pupils with ASD;
- through more rigorous monitoring of the teachers' plans, the subject co-ordinators have a clear overview across all the classes of their particular areas of responsibility; and
- the school has introduced effective methods of monitoring, evaluating, reviewing and disseminating good practice through the use of video-recorded lessons.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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