



*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

**Sacred Heart Boys' Primary School
Belfast**

May 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF SACRED HEART BOYS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT14 6HH (103-6471)

The focused inspection in October 2008 highlighted strengths in the effective arrangements for pastoral care which promoted the children's confidence and self-esteem, the high levels of engagement of the children in their learning and their excellent behaviour, the hard-working and committed teachers, the quality of teaching observed in most of the lessons and the effective management of the school by the Principal, ably supported by the Vice-principal and Senior Management Team.

The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following areas:

- the need to improve the planning and teaching strategies in order to meet more effectively the needs of all of the children and to raise the standards that they attain; and
- the need to develop further the arrangements for self-evaluation, including monitoring and evaluation of the children's progress against agreed targets for improvement.

In the interval since the original inspection, the school has received support from the Belfast Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory and Support Service team in the following areas:

- the use of performance data to track progress and promote improvement in the standards the children attain; and
- the further development of active learning strategies.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out three interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection on 12 May 2010.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The following are the most important improvements made:

- the effective links established with parents to help them support their children's learning;
- the commitment of the staff, led effectively by the Principal, Vice-principal and Senior Management Team, to developing a culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement;
- the effective use of performance data to track individual children's progress and set targets for improvement;
- the more consistent use of effective questioning strategies to promote the children's learning and thinking skills; and
- the improvement in the standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy.

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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