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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**

**Sion Mills Primary School**  
**Strabane**

**October 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF SION MILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL, STRABANE, CO TYRONE, BT82 9HP (201-6442)**

The focused inspection in November 2007 highlighted strengths in pastoral care and child protection, the hard-working teachers, the standards of the children's talking and listening skills, the dedication of the Principal and her commitment to improvement, and the support of parents, governors and the local community. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the need to focus more clearly and consistently on the development of the children's reading and writing skills in order to bring about improvement in the standards they attain; and
- the need to establish regular and consistent processes to monitor and evaluate the children's experiences and the standards they attain.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place:

- new literacy, numeracy and special educational needs co-ordinators have been appointed; and
- the whole staff has engaged enthusiastically on a programme of development supported by officers of the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Western Education and Library Board.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out monitoring visits on 23 June 2008 and 9 June 2009, and a follow-up inspection on 6 October 2009.

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 action plans produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings were of a very good quality.

The following are the most important improvements since the focused inspection:

- teachers are systematically tracking the progress of individual children, identifying target groups, providing timely, effective interventions and have brought about significant improvements in standards in both literacy and numeracy; and
- there is an effective, whole-school approach to monitoring and evaluating the children's experiences and the standards of their work to ensure continuous improvement.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children, and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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