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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

**St Aidan's Christian Brothers' Primary School
Belfast**

June 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST AIDAN'S CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT12 7FW (103-0316)

The focused inspection in St Aidan's Christian Brothers' Primary School highlighted strengths in the very welcoming and supportive ethos that permeates all aspects of school life, the comprehensive self-evaluation of the work of the school undertaken by the Principal and staff, the quality and effectiveness of the School Development Plan which has identified appropriate priorities for school improvement, the very good leadership of the Principal who, with the staff, has created a shared vision for the future of the school, the exemplary behaviour of the children and their sense of identity with the school community, and the efforts made by the school to involve parents in the education of their children.

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

- the need to raise the quality of teaching in a minority of instances to the level of the good quality of teaching observed during the inspection; and
- the need to continue to raise standards in literacy and numeracy in line with the targets identified by the school.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place. The school's enrolment has remained steady and stands currently at 153. The percentage of children entitled to free schools meals has increased to over 70%. The classroom assistants make an increased contribution to the children's progress in literacy and numeracy, and the parents are involved more fully in the life and the work of the school.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 1 June 2011.

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

- the sharper focus of the school on improving the quality of learning and teaching, and on raising the children's standards of attainment in basic literacy and numeracy; the good account taken of current research into how boys learn better;
- the establishment by the Principal of an effective framework for the systematic monitoring of teaching and planning, and the evaluation of the children's progress through sampling their written work;
- the implementation of a regular programme of classroom observations and a comprehensive action plan to address and support identified areas for improving teaching; during the follow-up inspection, the overall quality of the teaching was good;
- the increased emphasis on the teachers' continuous professional development and the effective sharing and discussion of good practice;
- the strengthened and extended role of the subject co-ordinators who review regularly the teachers' planning and the children's work;

- the effective use of data to monitor the children's progress in literacy and numeracy, to set realistic targets and to effect interventions where required;
- the comprehensive action plans for reading and writing and for the application of mathematics to real life situations;
- the useful links established by the acting Vice-Principal with other primary schools to support developments related to special educational needs; and
- the close match of the children's work to their needs and abilities, including targets that are set for improvement and the systematic monitoring of the children's progress.

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

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