



*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 Anthony's Primary School  
Larne**

**September 2011**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, LARNE, CO ANTRIM (303-0900)**

The focused inspection of St Anthony's Primary School, in November 2008, highlighted the following strengths: the effective arrangements for pastoral care; the children's good behaviour; the motivation and responses of the children; the effective leadership and management of the Principal and the hard working and committed teachers.

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

- to raise further, for a majority of the children, their attainment in literacy and numeracy;
- to make more effective provision for the spread of abilities within classes; and
- ensure information and communication technology (ICT) is used more effectively to enhance learning and teaching throughout the school.

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

- Staff development and support for literacy and numeracy has been provided by the North-Eastern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service.
- Changes have been made to staffing structures, including the appointment of three new teachers, a numeracy co-ordinator and a special educational needs co-ordinator.
- Additional resources have been purchased to further enhance many areas of the curriculum including literacy, a wider range of assessment tools and refined assessment procedures.
- The teachers have attended training in using ICT and acquired interactive whiteboards for the classrooms.
- The roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators, particularly relating to monitoring and evaluating have been clarified and developed.
- The space for Foundation stage (FS) has been developed to enhance the children's experiences in activity based learning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out one interim follow-up visit in February 2010 and a follow-up inspection in September 2011.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a 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 end of key stage 2 assessment outcomes in English and mathematics have improved and the school can demonstrate, through their internal data, good year-on-year progress made by most of the children;
- the co-ordinators have developed whole school planning which incorporates effective teaching strategies and includes evidence of differentiation for the wide range of abilities and needs;
- a stronger focus has been placed on matching the work more closely to the abilities and individual needs of all the children through the teachers weekly planners and the analysis of the internal data;
- the quality of teaching in the lessons observed during the follow-up was very good;
- the good progress made in embedding the use of ICT in supporting the children's learning, through the effective professional development of teachers;
- the very positive ethos which permeates throughout the school, the significant improvements to the learning environment, and the enriched quality of the experiences for the children in the FS; and
- the collegial and committed approach of the staff to self-evaluation leading to improvement under the effective leadership of the Principal.

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.

## **APPENDIX**

### **ACCOMMODATION/HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- The steps from the car park to the school are excessively steep and continue to present a health and safety hazard.
- The school does not meet the Special Educational Needs and Disability (NI) Order legislation as there is no disabled access.
- The wooden window frames and sills are rotted and crumbling.

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