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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

St Anthony's Primary School
Limavady

January 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST ANTHONY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIMAVADY, CO LONDONDERRY, BT49 0HY (203-2265)

The focused inspection in May 2006 highlighted a range of strengths including the very positive and supportive ethos, the broad range of learning experiences provided for the children, the commitment and effective leadership of the Principal and the effective contribution made by classroom assistants and all ancillary staff to the life and work of the school.

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

- the need to prepare whole school guidance for mathematics which outlines the progression and development within the children's learning across the primary years and sets out how mathematical processes will be developed within each key stage; and
- the need to develop further the programme for play-based learning to promote progression in the children's language and learning through the early years.

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

- falling enrolment has meant that there has been a reduction in the teaching staff from three teachers to two, resulting in extended age and ability ranges in both of the classes;
- a new mathematics scheme and additional resources have been introduced to support the development and progression of processes in mathematics throughout the school;
- a number of valuable initiatives have been implemented to involve parents in supporting their children's learning in reading and mathematics; and
- there have been improvements in the accommodation and resources available for play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 29 January 2009.

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 almost all of the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The school has demonstrated the capacity to address a few remaining minor areas for improvement.

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

- there is a progressive scheme for mathematics across the school identifying appropriate outcomes for processes and mental mathematics;
- the children confidently use mathematical language to discuss their work and explain their thinking; and
- there is a useful focus on practical activities to engage pupils and support learning in mathematics.

The following has been identified appropriately by the school as an area for further improvement:

- the need for continued staff development to ensure planning for play is differentiated appropriately for all groups.

Since the inspection, the school evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

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 demonstrated some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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