



*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St Brigid's Primary School
Cloughmills, Ballymena**

November 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLOUGHMILLS, BALLYMENNA, CO ANTRIM, BT44 9LT (303-0890)

The focused inspection in St Brigid's Primary School, Cloughmills in October 2005 highlighted strengths in most aspects of the educational and pastoral provision including the positive ethos, the hard-working and committed teachers, the quality of teaching, and the broad range of the children's learning experiences in English. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to link and embed the information and communication technology (ICT) planning and activities across the curriculum, and to ensure that the children's skills and experiences are developed progressively within and across both key stages; and
- to use more effectively, the performance data already available in the school, to inform the teachers' planning and classroom practice, and to set targets for teachers and individual children.

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

- there is a temporary Acting-principal;
- one new teacher has been appointed;
- the school received good support from the North-Eastern Education and Library Board Curriculum, Advisory and Support Service;
- interactive whiteboards have been installed in all classrooms;
- the school audited progression in the development of the children's ICT skills;
- new extended accommodation opened in September 2007 consisting of a new staff room, principal's office, resource room and refurbished toilet facilities, and a new mobile classroom was opened in September 2008; and
- the school has developed further links with other schools within the local and wider communities.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out monitoring visits in April and September 2008 and conducted a follow-up inspection on 28 November 2008.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- the effective use of interactive whiteboards to support teaching and learning;
- the appropriate planning for progression in the development of the children's ICT skills throughout the school;

- the appropriate use of a range of ICT resources and activities to enhance the children's learning experiences across the curriculum;
- the good start that has been made in developing target-setting for individual pupils;
- the effective use of available performance data to inform teacher's planning and classroom practice; and
- the effective use of available data to track the longitudinal progress of the children and inform target-setting at class and whole-school level.

Since the inspection, the school evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvement made, and helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through self-evaluation, the school demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are further developed.

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some minor aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.