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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 Bronagh's Primary School
Rostrevor**

June 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST BRONAGH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROSTREVOR, CO DOWN, BT34 3BB

The Focused Inspection of St Bronagh's Primary School, in March 2009, highlighted the following strengths; the well-behaved children who, since the amalgamation, had integrated well together into the life and work of the new school; the promotion of healthy eating and physical activity; and the satisfactory provision in aspects of both English and mathematics. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the governors, together with the Principal and staff, to ensure collective decision making, team-working and greater consistency across key areas of the school's life and work;
- the development of a more effective senior leadership team to effect the improvements necessary in the standards which the children achieve; and
- improvement in internal and external communication and working relationships throughout the school.

As part of the follow-up inspection process the Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit in St Bronagh's Primary School on 30 March 2010; and conducted a follow-up inspection on 9 and 10 June 2010.

In the interval since the original focused inspection, the school has received significant support from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools and from the Southern Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) in the following areas:

- the development of action plans to address the key areas for improvement identified in the inspection report;
- curriculum development in the area of processes in mathematics;
- the use of the school's internal data to track the children's progress and to identify their levels of achievement, and to inform learning and teaching; and
- the development of a revised leadership and management structure and new procedures for internal and external communication.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings is very good, and the school's development plan has been adjusted in the light of the inspection findings, and now meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

The following are the most important improvements that have taken place since the original inspection:

- the teaching observed was always satisfactory and in most instances it was good;
- the teachers are making good use of performance data in setting targets for improvement;

- there has been a significant improvement in the standards of achievement in the work of the children and the current standard of attainment in both literacy and numeracy is good;
- the teaching staff have benefited greatly from the external support from CASS, particularly in relation to the teaching of numeracy; and in the quality of provision in the foundation stage, where good progress is being made;
- the governors have worked hard and have played a central role in supporting the school and in monitoring developments;
- the parents have demonstrated loyalty to the school and the enrolment has remained stable;
- the self-evaluation processes now in place are helping the staff to be more reflective about their work; in guiding their planning for learning and teaching; and in the sharing of good practice with each other; and
- those teachers who have joined the recently formed senior leadership team, demonstrate a strong commitment to making a positive contribution to the development of the school.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school has improved by one performance level from unsatisfactory to inadequate. While the school has made good progress in important aspects of its work, in particular the quality of learning and teaching and in the standards the children are achieving, the follow-up inspection has identified the need for substantial improvement in the principal's leadership of the school. This issue needs to be addressed urgently if the school is to meet effectively the needs of all of the children.

The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

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