



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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*Providing Inspection Services for*  
**Department of Education  
Department for Employment and Learning  
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**St Colman's Primary School  
Kilkeel**

**January 2007**

## **FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST COLMAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, KILKEEL, BT34 4BH (503-6545)**

The focused inspection in February 2005 highlighted strengths in the work of the school, the strong sense of community, the high priority placed on the pastoral care of the children, the quality of much of the teaching, the exemplary behaviour of the children and the dedication, leadership and commitment of the Principal. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the dissemination of the existing good practice throughout the school;
- the regular monitoring and evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of the learning and teaching in each key stage; and
- the development of an agreed understanding of how children's learning can be promoted and enriched through the provision of stimulating play activities.

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

- progress in addressing the various issues was seriously hampered due to a combination of circumstances affecting the school and its staff; the school reported that the past year has been the most tragic year in its history. Further, the enrolment of the school and its staffing have continued to decline;
- the school acquired additional resources for indoor and outdoor infant play;
- management and coordinating roles are in the process of being reviewed; and
- there has been relevant and effective staff development in important curricular areas and the school received support from the Southern Education and Library Board Curriculum, Advisory and Support Service. For example, the Key Stage 1 staff have benefited from support in developing and revising the provision in play.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 17 January 2007.

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

- a thorough review of the provision in structured play which is having a positive impact on the children's progression in learning in the early years;
- the ongoing commitment, development and implementation of more rigorous procedures to monitor and evaluate the life and work of the school. These include the monitoring of planning and children's work by senior management with an increasing role for curriculum and key stage coordinators; the school accepts fully that there is still much work to be done in this important area;

- the effective collection, collation and analysis of use of internal data increasingly being shared with staff and others is having a positive impact on target setting and in monitoring progress;
- an ongoing review of management at all levels to match more closely the changing needs of the school; and
- the hard work and effective pastoral leadership of the Principal, the vice-principal and teaching staff who are collectively committed to enhancing and promoting the work of the school in the best interests of the children.

As part of the follow-up inspection process, the school conducted its own evaluation of the progress in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Principal submitted a self-evaluative report to the Inspectorate setting out the current and recent work of the school and on the progress made in key areas.

The inspection confirms that, through effective whole-school planning and self-evaluation, the school has identified appropriately its priorities for current and future development and improvement.

There were strengths in the school's approach to self-evaluation. The quality of the report and supporting documentation were good. The report provided clear evidence of the good progress made following the inspection. The processes used to gather the evidence were effective. The Inspectorate confirms that the findings and recommendations contained in the self-evaluative reports are accurate and appropriate, and are an effective response to the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection report.

The school has made progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the focused inspection.

The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the school and report on its progress.

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