



*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 Dallan's Primary School  
Warrenpoint**

**June 2009**



## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST DALLAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, WARRENPOINT, CO DOWN, BT34 3RP (503-6583)**

The focused inspection in October 2007 highlighted strengths in the school, including the high quality of pastoral care and child protection and the caring, friendly and welcoming atmosphere and its strong Catholic ethos, the professional and hard working staff and the sound quality of the teaching. The report also highlighted, the high level of commitment to support children with special needs or with English as an Additional Language. It also identified the professionalism, vision and leadership of the Principal and Vice-principal, the success of a recent amalgamation and the willingness within the school community to promote improvement in important areas.

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

- to empower the staff in decision making and in taking on curricular leadership roles and responsibilities, in sharing their expertise, and in disseminating good practice in learning and teaching; and
- to make more extensive use of performance data and information available to review and inform learning and teaching so as to improve standards.

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

- the school accessed appropriate support for literacy, and for planning, from the Southern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service, and from the employing authority the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- important areas of curricular responsibility have been filled and extensive curricular leadership training and team building has taken place; and
- the senior management team has been enlarged to include representatives from key areas of the school.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits in 2008 and 2009, and a follow-up inspection in June 2009.

The action plans produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings were of a very good quality. The school's development plan had been adjusted in light of the inspection findings and meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

Very good progress has been made in the areas of improvement identified during the original inspection. The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the stronger focus on staff development, and in sharing and disseminating good practice;



- the teachers and co-ordinators have reviewed their planning for literacy, and for the use of information and communication technology;
- the teachers are using a even wider range of teaching strategies to challenge, motivate and engage the children and to meet the varying needs within the classes;
- the stronger focus on raising standards and there is clear evidence of very good progress being made in reading and in writing;
- the school has devised its own excellent data base to record performance data; effective use is being made of this data to influence planning, target setting, and learning and teaching in promoting higher standards in the work of the children;
- the recent successes and innovations which have encouraged the staff in taking on additional curricular and staff development roles; further, the expertise of the staff has been more effectively utilized in developing many aspects of the school; and
- the stronger curriculum leadership and clear strategic direction from senior and middle management, and the review of curricular roles and responsibilities across the school have been reviewed to meet the current and future needs of the school.

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 to the improvement made, particularly, the development of the greater collegiality now evident. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation leading to improvement, now in place, are sustained and extended.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

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](http://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.