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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

St Dympna's Primary School
Dromore, Omagh

May 2009

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST DYMPNA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DROMORE, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT78 3AJ (203-6186)

The focused inspection in March 2007 in St Dympna's Primary School, Dromore, highlighted strengths in the excellent behaviour of the children, the dedication of the teachers, the high quality of the teaching, the strong links with the local community and the support of the parents and governors for the life and work of the school.

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

- to agree and implement a clear and prioritised school development plan (SDP); and
- to monitor and evaluate more effectively the quality and outcomes of learning and teaching in order to promote ongoing improvement.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the primary school has taken place:

- a new Principal teacher has been appointed;
- co-ordinators are now managing their respective areas;
- support, advice and guidance have been provided by the Curriculum, Advisory and Support Service (CASS).

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out monitoring visits in June 2008 and February 2009 and a follow-up inspection on 19 May 2009.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of very good quality.

The SDP was adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The SDP meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

Very good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection.

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

- staff and governors have been involved appropriately in developing the SDP;
- all staff are now involved in, and see the benefit of, the process of staff development. They have engaged enthusiastically on a programme of in-service training involving officers of the Western Education and Library Board's CASS team. They discuss the courses attended with colleagues, and disseminate strategies and resources;

- action plans have been prepared and implemented across all areas of the curriculum, and progress is monitored, evaluated and reviewed;
- a culture of monitoring, evaluation and review, and self-evaluation to promote continuous improvement has been embedded in all aspects of the life the school.

Since the inspection, the school has evaluated rigorously 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 has contributed significantly to the improvement made, and has helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through effective self-evaluation, the school has demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are maintained and further developed.

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 children, and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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