



*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**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St. Francis' Primary School
Aghaderg, Banbridge**

Inspected: April 2008

FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL AGHADERG, BANBRIDGE, CO DOWN, BT32 3LN (503-6457)

The focused inspection in May 2006 highlighted strengths in the work of the school, the caring, welcoming ethos, the good behaviour of the children and their interest in learning, the effective teamwork among the staff and the high standard of much of the teaching. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to promote more effective communication with the parents;
- to review the planning and the provision for structured play across key stage (KS) 1; and
- to develop further a team approach to management in line with the requirements of the school.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on Thursday 10 April 2008.

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

- 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 KS1 staff have benefited from support in developing and revising the provision in play;
- a thorough review of the provision in structured play has taken place which is having a positive impact on the children's progression in learning in the early years, further, the school acquired additional resources for infant play;
- there have been developments in the provision for mathematics with an increasing focus on mathematics for everyday life and on investigative work;
- management and co-ordinating roles are in the process of being reviewed with a stronger focus on the changing needs of the school;
- there is a stronger commitment to providing the parents with information on their child's progress and on whole-school pastoral and curricular matters; and
- the continuing 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.

The school authorities need to address the lack of storage space especially in the infant rooms and the use of the central resource facility as a classroom which militates against its use as a shared area for play and other uses. In addition, there is a need to develop the grounds for outdoor play.

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 and staff 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.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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