

eti

*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 Joseph's Primary School
Meigh, Newry**

June 2010

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MEIGH, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT35 8LA (503-1188)

The focused inspection in September 2009 highlighted strengths in the school's provision that included:

- the very happy ethos throughout the school, and the children's excellent behaviour;
- the hard work and commitment of the teachers, and the very good teaching in almost half of the lessons observed;
- the innovative use of multimedia communication to develop the children's skills in Information and Communication Technology;
- the caring and supportive leadership provided by the Principal and Vice-Principal and their commitment to school improvement.

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

- the need to develop a culture of self-evaluation leading to improved school development planning;
- the need for management at all levels to put in place effective strategies to monitor and evaluate the quality of learning and teaching across the school; and
- the need for management at all levels to make more effective use of quantitative and qualitative data to track the children's progress and set targets in order to raise the standards they attain.

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

- the teachers and support staff have engaged well in a range of professional development activities focused on improving the teaching of reading throughout the school, they have been well supported in this work by officers of the Southern Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory and Support Service officers;
- the school has received training from C2k in the effective use of the Schools Information Management System (SIMS) to collate and interpret performance data;
- the school has extended the opportunities for parents to comment on and contribute to their children's learning experiences; and
- a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts have been introduced to the literacy programme.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection on 11 June 2010.

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

The School Development Plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan now meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

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

- the very good strategic leadership of the Principal and the Vice-Principal resulting in the development and implementation of a comprehensive school improvement programme;
- the improved arrangements to monitor the quality of teaching and learning across the school;
- the strong curricular leadership provided by the literacy and numeracy co-ordinators who through effective collaboration have improved the children's learning experiences and the standards of their work;
- the commitment and hard work of all of the staff and the successful embedding of a culture of self-evaluation at individual teacher, curricular team and whole school level; and
- the very effective use of performance data to track the progress of individual children, to differentiate between low and under achievement and to set challenging targets for improvement for the children.

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 2010

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 ETI website:
www.etini.gov.uk

