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*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 Kevin's Primary School
Belfast**

May 2007

FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST KEVIN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT12 6EN (103-6565)

The focused inspection of English, information and communication technology (ICT) and the school's arrangements for pastoral care conducted in May 2005 highlighted strengths in:

- the positive and caring ethos;
- the strong sense of community which pervades the life and work of the school;
- the quality of the relationships between the teachers and the children;
- the quality of the display of the children's work throughout the school;
- the approaches adopted by most of the teachers which encourage the children to be well behaved;
- the quality of the teaching which in most cases was good;
- the arrangements for the pastoral care of the children;
- the hard-working and well-prepared teachers;
- the commitment of the school management to meeting the needs of the children who have difficulty with their learning;
- the quality of the children's experiences in ICT; and
- the quality of the leadership provided by the principal in all aspects of the work of the school.

The findings of the follow-up inspection confirms that these areas continue to be significant strengths.

The areas for improvement identified by the inspection included the need to:

- improve the quality of the teachers' planning and practice to ensure that the teaching strategies employed match more closely the ability of all of the children, particularly those who are having difficulty with their learning and the more able; and
- review and adjust the current range of teaching strategies in literacy and numeracy in order to raise the overall standards achieved by the children by the end of key stage 2.

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

- the staffing complement has been reduced by two full-time teachers through redundancy. This is in spite of the enrolment remaining relatively stable.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection in May 2007.

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

- a positive response to the inspection findings from the Board of Governors was sent to the Department of Education and the teachers produced comprehensive action plans to address the key issues identified in the inspection report;
- under the guidance of the senior management team, and with effective support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Staff of the Belfast Education and Library Board, the teachers have continued to develop their planning for learning and teaching with particular emphasis being given to meeting the specific needs of the children with average, or just below average ability;
- the senior management team has encouraged a self-evaluative approach to whole-school improvement. This has included the development of a wide range of monitoring and evaluating strategies. Key elements of these strategies include the extensive use of performance data which is being used to target more effectively those children who are underperforming and the approach the school has taken to seek the views of the children in this process;
- the good work identified during the initial inspection being undertaken in ICT and in supporting the children with learning difficulties has continued to develop; and
- there is clear evidence to support the school's evaluation that the standards attained by the children in English, and mathematics, are beginning to improve. The school has identified appropriately the need to consolidate these improvements and, importantly, accelerate the rate at which standards are improving.

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

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