



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St Malachy's Primary School
Coleraine**

May 2007

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST MALACHY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY, BT52 1HJ (303-2297)

The focused inspection in October 2004 highlighted strengths that included the caring and supportive ethos, the good to excellent quality of a majority of the teaching, the quality of the learning opportunities provided through effective play in the early years, the provision for special educational needs, the progress made in developing writing across the curriculum, the good progress made in information and communication technology (ICT), the excellent leadership of the Principal and the wide range of extra-curricular, musical and sporting activities.

Among the key areas for improvement, the inspection identified the need to:

- improve the quality and effectiveness of some of the teaching; and
- broaden the children's experiences in talking and listening, particularly at key stage 2.

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

- audits of the practice in talking and listening and ICT to inform appropriate action planning which will extend further the learning experiences of the children and the teaching strategies;
- the use of the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment ICT Accreditation scheme;
- the extended planning for activity-based learning which lays out clearly the learning to be promoted from years 1 to 4;
- the development of classroom strategies which increase the children's oral participation in the lessons;
- the effective use of a range of appropriate teaching and learning support strategies to promote consistent and effective teaching across all year groups, where appropriate;
- the continuing excellent leadership and vision of the Principal, supported capably by the Vice-principal and the school management team, in developing further the curricular initiatives in the school and a self-evaluative culture in which the staff reflect on their practice; and
- the further development of the co-ordinators of literacy, activity-based learning and ICT to evaluate and improve the quality of the children's learning experiences.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 25 May 2007.

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

- the more consistent organisation of lessons to involve the children more, to promote collaborative learning and to allow more opportunities for extended oral work;
- the development of role-models of curricular leadership through the work led effectively by the co-ordinators of literacy, activity-based learning and ICT;

- the development of an appropriate range of indicators of effective talking and listening which identifies the progression in the skills and learning experiences;
- the greater consistency in the use of all attainment targets in ICT, at all levels, within the school;
- the effective monitoring and evaluation of practice and of curriculum initiatives to inform and build on the consistently good teaching; and
- the collegial approach to planning and improvement that the highly committed staff have continued to develop and refine.

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 school submitted a self-evaluative report to the Inspectorate setting out its findings.

The inspection confirms that, through effective self-evaluation, the school has identified appropriately its priorities for future development and improvement.

There were many significant strengths in the school's approach to self-evaluation. The report provided clear evidence of the excellent 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 report are accurate and appropriate, and are an effective response to the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection report.

The school has made excellent 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 response to the findings of the focused inspection.

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