



*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 Mary's Primary School
Comber**

June 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE SHORT INSPECTION OF ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, COMBER, CO DOWN, BT23 5AP(403-1662)

The short inspection in April 2009 highlighted strengths in the school's provision that included: the exemplary behaviour of the children; the caring and inclusive atmosphere that permeates the school; the quality of the teaching which was always good and in the majority of lessons observed very good; and the hard work and commitment of the Principal and staff to promote improvement.

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

- the teachers' short-term planning, in particular in literacy and numeracy, in order to focus more sharply on the children's learning; and
- the need for a rigorous and systematic approach to the monitoring and evaluation of learning and teaching to raise further the standards achieved by all the children, in particular in numeracy.

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

- the short-term employment of an extra teacher;
- the acquisition of an additional building housing a computer suite, library and staffroom;
- the steady increase in enrolment in the past four years;
- the development of new weekly planners giving details of day to day activities;
- the organisation of a numeracy cluster group with other primary schools;
- the implementation of new marking and monitoring and evaluation policies; and
- the good support provided by the South Eastern Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory and Support Services.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 15 June 2011.

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 good start made to the development of short-term planning to guide better the learning and teaching;
- the implementation of a more rigorous and systematic approach to the monitoring and evaluation of provision; and
- the improving standards achieved by the children in both key stages.

The area for improvement is:

- the need to continue to embed the short term planning and monitor and evaluate its effectiveness in raising further the standards.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2011

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

