



*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
Dungannon**

October 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE SHORT INSPECTION OF ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE, BT70 3LH (503-2592)

The short inspection in October 2009 highlighted strengths in the school's ethos, the links with the parents and the behaviour of the children; the provision for special educational needs, the quality of the teaching, the standards in literacy, and in the leadership and management. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to develop effective long-term planning in literacy and numeracy in order to ensure continuity and progression in the children's learning; and
- to develop a more strategic approach to monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching throughout the school, in order to better inform the School Development Plan (SDP) and to raise further the standards in literacy and, particularly, in numeracy.

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

- the school had well-focused support from the Southern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service in relation to literacy and numeracy, and leadership development;
- the enrolment increased from 49 to 55;
- the number of children who require additional support with aspects of their learning increased from 16% to 22%; and
- the school developed a school website and purchased additional resources for literacy and numeracy.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection on 20 October 2011.

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

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

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

- the strategic whole-school approach to addressing the areas for improvement;
- the cohesive long-term planning in literacy and numeracy which ensures continuity and progression in the children's learning;
- the teachers' regular and comprehensive evaluations of the children's learning, which they use well to inform future planning and classroom practice;
- the school development planning process which is underpinned by the systematic monitoring and evaluation of learning and teaching, the effective use of internal data and the sharing of good practice;

- the range of appropriate strategies, including Catch-up Maths, to enhance the provision for numeracy and to raise further the standards achieved by the children; and
- the meaningful engagement with the parents, through workshops and curriculum information sessions, to enable them to support their children in their learning.

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors, and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

CONCLUSION

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.

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