

eti

*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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 Mary's Primary School
Fivemiletown**

October 2007

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, FIVEMILETOWN, CO TYRONE, BT75 0SA
(503-2736)**

The focused inspection in January 2006 highlighted strengths in the very positive ethos, the good and sometimes very good quality of the teaching observed, the effective methods of assessment used and the commitment and dedication of the Principal and good team spirit among the staff. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to update aspects of the child protection procedures used in the school; and
- to review and develop the provision for structured play throughout key stage (KS) 1 in order to provide a richer and more stimulating programme of play activities for the children.

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

- the Principal has had initial training for the implementation of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- the Principal has completed the centrally programmed training for Year 5 teachers, and the assistant teacher has completed the centrally programmed training for Year 1 teachers in the Foundation Stage (FS);
- the school has purchased many additional resources specifically for activity based learning in the FS and KS1;
- two interactive white boards have been purchased for use in the FS, KS1 and KS2;
- the school mobile has been refurbished to facilitate and enhance a more practical approach to learning in the FS and KS1;
- the assistant teacher has carried out visits to other primary schools and the local nursery school to observe practice in the Early Years; and
- the staff report that they have received some helpful support from members of the Southern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service.

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

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

- the school has a comprehensive pastoral care policy of which the strengths are the high quality of the pastoral care provision, the strong and effective leadership of the Principal for pastoral care and the effective communications with parents and board of governors;

- the Foundation Stage children and the KS 1 children are taught within a composite class. The staff have worked hard to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment that takes account of all of the children's needs, interests and stage of development;
- the children experience a range of well-planned play based activities that help to promote their creativity and imagination and develop their thinking skills and personal capabilities;
- the staff use a range of appropriate teaching strategies that enable them to meet the differing needs and interest of the children and to help them to make connections in their learning; and
- appropriate methods are in place to observe the children and monitor their progress and learning.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

APPENDIX

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The central classroom is currently used as the children's library, a storage facility and staff room collectively and is very congested. The use of this area needs to be reviewed urgently in order to accommodate all three facilities in a more discrete, secure and orderly way.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2007

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 DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.