



*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 Oliver Plunkett Primary School
Strathfoyle, Derry**

September 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST OLIVER PLUNKETT PRIMARY SCHOOL, STRATHFOYLE, DERRY, BT47 6XA (203-6143)

The focused inspection of St Oliver Plunkett Primary School, Strathfoyle, in January 2007 highlighted the strengths of the school including:

- the happy, caring ethos;
- the strong commitment of all staff to the children's development and well-being;
- the motivated, well-behaved children;
- the commitment of the hard-working teachers;
- the overall good standards achieved by the children in literacy;
- the effective provision for children with special educational needs;
- the care and concern of the Principal for the children and the whole school community; and
- the strong support of parents, governors and the wider community for the work of the school.

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

- to agree and implement a clear, prioritised and costed school development plan (SDP) to guide the work of the school in a more strategic manner; and
- to develop an effective system of monitoring and evaluating the quality of teaching and learning to promote ongoing improvement.

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

- the school has engaged in a programme of development and improvement under the guidance of officers from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Western Education and Library Board and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) visited the school on 23 January 2008 and carried out a follow-up inspection on 22 September 2008.

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

- the school has reviewed and amended its SDP and procedures for school improvement appropriately; and

- the staff have agreed structures for the monitoring and evaluation of learning and teaching and these are being implemented effectively throughout the school.

As part of the follow-up process, the school conducted its own evaluation of 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.

There were many strengths in the school's approach to self-evaluation. The quality of the report was good. The report provided clear evidence of good 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.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children, and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

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.