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*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 Oliver Plunkett's Primary School
Toomebridge**

June 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF ST OLIVER PLUNKETT'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, TOOMEBRIDGE, CO ANTRIM (303-3303)

The focused inspection of St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School in March 2009 highlighted strengths in the pastoral care of the pupils, the commitment of the Principal and staff, the support for the children identified as requiring additional help with their learning, the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to support learning and teaching, the success of the Extended Schools programme and the effective links with external agencies.

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

- to identify and disseminate the best practice across the whole school in order to promote greater consistency in the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning; and
- to establish a more rigorous approach to monitoring and evaluation to enable the leadership team to determine its priorities for development, ensuring sufficient challenge and extension for the more able children and overall improvement in the standards achieved in literacy and numeracy.

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

- the school development plan (SDP) has been reviewed, with the support of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools;
- support has been provided by the North-Eastern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service in relation to the development of literacy, numeracy, play-based learning and the effective use of data;
- procedures have been put in place to enable the co-ordinators to monitor and evaluate the planning and the work in the children's books; and
- the school has acquired additional resources to support literacy and numeracy.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection on 13 June 2011.

The school submitted appropriate action plans and the SDP was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- the collegial and committed approach of the staff to self-evaluation leading to improvement, under the very effective leadership of the Principal;
- the enthusiasm and effectiveness of the literacy and numeracy co-ordinators in leading the developments and improvements in their respective areas;
- the quality of the teaching in the lessons observed, which was always good and very good or outstanding in half of the lessons;
- the effective use of a range of data to evaluate the learning and teaching, demonstrate improvement and identify further priorities for development;

- the improvement in the standards the children attain, which are now very good with almost all of the children achieving the expected level or above by the end of KS2; and
- the very good opportunities provided for the children to develop their thinking skills and personal capabilities through a variety of independent and collaborative learning activities.

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 children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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