



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 Patrick's Primary School
Burrenreagh, Castlewellan, County Down**

February 2016

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, BURRENREAGH, CASTLEWELLAN, BT31 9HH (403 1671)

The original inspection carried out in February 2014¹ concluded that in most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this school was satisfactory; the strengths outweighed the areas for improvement.

The key areas for improvement identified the need for:

- the leadership and management to develop a more rigorous approach to self-evaluation to promote school improvement in which targets are focused sharply on measurable outcomes in the children's learning; and
- the teachers to plan more systematically to progress the children's learning, including their use of assessment to inform future planning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out two monitoring visits in October 2014 and April 2015.

The action plans received by the Department of Education following the inspection were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI during the interim visits. The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- the board of governors has been reconstituted successfully with the appointment of seven new governors;
- there have been significant changes to the staffing with the appointment of two new members of teaching staff; and,
- the staff have received professional development and support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Services (CASS) of the Education Authority in a number of areas, in particular, literacy and numeracy;

Key Findings

- The improved confidence and capacity of the literacy and numeracy co-ordinators in leading and managing their respective areas of responsibility through action planning that is based on critical self-evaluation and underpinned by continuing professional development.
- There is effective oversight of the children's standards in literacy and numeracy through: a more rigorous approach to the analysis of the school's internal performance data; regular book reviews; a review of the teachers' planning; and, direct engagement with the children through literacy and numeracy focus groups.
- The link governors are better informed on the children's standards of attainment in literacy and numeracy and are able to provide a more robust challenge function.

¹ <http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/inspection-reports/inspection-reports-primary/inspection-reports-primary-2014/primary-inspection-st-patricks-primary-school-castlewellan-co-down.pdf>

- There is a consistent approach to literacy and numeracy planning throughout the school; the long term plans provide a better overview for progression in learning while the short term plans and evaluations of the children's progress, guide the staff more effectively in their day to day work.
- The improved quality of teaching and learning observed during the follow-up process which was effective in most of the lessons observed.

Overall effectiveness

The school has demonstrated the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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