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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

The Diamond Primary School
Cullybackey, Ballymena

October 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF THE DIAMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL, CULLYBACKEY, BALLYMENA, CO ANTRIM, BT42 1EE (301-0826)

The focused inspection in October 2006 highlighted strengths in, for example, the excellent quality of pastoral care and the very good start made to the identification of, and support for, children with special educational needs. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the more effective use of the performance data already available in the school to develop a sharper focus on the standards expected and achieved in both key stages; and
- the continued monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of planning, learning and teaching in the best interests of all the children, in particular to raise expectations of what the more able children can achieve.

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

- one new teacher was appointed; and
- the school acquired additional resources to support the children's learning in reading.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a monitoring visit during the period since the inspection and a follow-up inspection in October 2008.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements which have taken place since the focused inspection:

- the more consistent quality of most of the teaching which ranges from very good to outstanding;
- the increased use of data to inform the planning, learning and teaching; and
- the further development of the monitoring and evaluation of the children's learning to inform planning.

Since the inspection, the school has evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement.

Very good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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