

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

**The William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School
Dervock**

January 2008

SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (SSP) FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF THE WILLIAM PINKERTON MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, DERVOCK, BALLYMONEY, CO ANTRIM, BT53 8BB (301-0842)

The SSP follow-up inspection in January 2007 highlighted strengths in the caring and supportive atmosphere; the stimulating environment which celebrates the children's work and achievements; the excellent working relationships; the effective team-work of the teaching and support staff; the good quality of the reviewed planning for literacy; the quality of the teaching, the majority of which is good and, on occasions, excellent; the good progress in the use of mental mathematics; the effective integration and use of information and communication technology (ICT) to enhance the children's learning; the high quality of the support for those children with special educational needs; and the positive leadership of the Principal and the reflective staff who are prepared to review and refine their practice.

The inspection also identified the need for improvement in the following key area:

- the need to extend more consistently the school's literacy strategies across other areas of the curriculum.

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

- the teachers' participation in excellent professional development in ICT provided by the North-Eastern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) and the school's ICT co-ordinator;
- the installation of interactive whiteboards in four classrooms; and
- the significant focus on promoting and enhancing the children's learning opportunities, including the development of thinking skills and assessment for learning strategies.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 9 January 2008. The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the follow-up inspection:

- the collegial approach to planning and improvement that the highly committed staff have continued to develop and refine under the effective leadership of the Principal;
- the staff's judicious use of the interactive whiteboards as a valuable resource to enhance their pedagogy;
- the teachers' medium-term planning identifies appropriately the ICT software relating to the interactive whiteboards which the children use in the lessons;

- the excellent quality of the lessons evaluated during the inspection visit, that promote successfully the children's opportunities for learning through collaborative activities and the effective use of peer evaluation strategies in literacy, play-based learning and the world around us;
- the children's increased enjoyment and self-confidence in learning as evident through the more creative use of ICT resources to support and extend the children's learning experiences; and
- the more effective analysis of the school's performance data to ensure that the learning opportunities are appropriately targeted at individual children and groups within classes.

Since the inspection, the school evaluated rigorously the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvements made, and helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development. The inspection confirms that, through effective self-evaluation, the school has demonstrated clear evidence of improvement. Accordingly, the Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are maintained.

Excellent 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.

© 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.