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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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*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**

**Tír na nÓg Primary School  
Ballyclare**

**February 2007**

## **FOLLOW UP TO THE INSPECTION OF TÍR NA NÓG PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYCLARE, CO ANTRIM, BT39 9BG (303-3304)**

The focused inspection in October 2004 highlighted many strengths, among which were the positive and caring ethos, the well-behaved and enthusiastic children, the strong sense of team-work, the hard-working and well-prepared teachers, the overall quality of the work in mathematics, the development of information and communications technology (ICT) throughout the school and the leadership provided by the Principal.

The inspection identified the need to:

- build on the useful foundation work already undertaken in the development of the teachers' planning to include a sharper focus on the intended learning outcomes of lessons and how the teaching strategies are to be adapted to meet the individual needs of the children, especially those who are having difficulty with their learning; and
- review the assessment and marking policies to ensure greater consistency in the extent to which the assessment of the children's work contributes to raising standards.

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

- The assistant teacher, who had just taken up post before the focused inspection, has taken on the role of Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and has reviewed the education plans.
- The staff have reviewed the marking and assessment policies.
- The children in year seven have successfully undertaken the ICT key stage 2 accreditation administered by the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) and there are plans to extend it further down the school.
- The teachers have introduced regular plenary sessions at the end of lessons to assess, with the children, the extent of the learning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out a follow-up inspection on 28 February 2007.

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

- The teachers' planning, and in particular the education plans for those children with particular learning needs, focus more clearly on the intended learning outcomes.
- The strategies the teachers use for individual children, and for particular groups, reflect appropriately their close knowledge of the children's learning needs.

- The teachers continue to use and to refine a wide range of suitable strategies to identify the children's needs and to inform their planning, with appropriate plans to introduce more self-evaluation by the children of the progress they are making.

The school has made good progress in addressing the key areas for action. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the school's commitment to and action for improvement, and the effectiveness of its response to the findings of the focused inspection.

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