



*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Trench Road Primary School
Derry**

September 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF TRENCH ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, DERRY, BT47 2DT (203-6259)

The focused inspection of Trench Road Primary School in October 2006 highlighted the strengths of the school including:

- the courteous, well-behaved children;
- the strong family ethos, and the commitment to the children's development and well-being;
- the developments made in the school's extra-curricular provision;
- the high quality of the children's displayed work;
- the children's interest and motivation to learn;
- the many examples of very good and excellent teaching;
- the strong support of the parents and governors;
- the good start made to collegial decision-making and team-building; and
- the vision of the Principal and his commitment to school improvement.

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

- to agree staff development needs, roles and responsibilities, and to negotiate clear job descriptions for all post holders in line with the needs of the school;
- to evaluate all aspects of its provision for special educational needs and to implement appropriate action-planning for improvement; and
- to continue with its programme to improve standards and attainments in literacy.

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

- the school has engaged enthusiastically in a programme of development and improvement in collaboration with officers from the Regional Training Unit, and the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Western Education and Library Board; and
- the school has embarked on Investors in People.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 23 September 2008.

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

- the whole school community has agreed a new vision for the school, which underpins the school's direction and purpose;
- all subject leaders' job descriptions have been renegotiated in line with the needs of the school;

- co-ordinators and subject managers have undertaken a range of activities in a programme of middle management training;
- Special educational needs provision has been thoroughly reviewed. In particular, the use of education plans is targeted appropriately on the needs of individual children;
- there is a greater focus on raising standards and using all the available data to inform this work; and
- procedures to monitor and evaluate the work of the school have been agreed and implemented effectively.

As part of the follow-up process, the school conducted its own evaluation of progress in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The school submitted a self-evaluative report to the Inspectorate setting out its findings. The inspection confirms that through effective self-evaluation, the school has identified appropriately its priorities for future development and improvement.

There were many strengths in the school's approach to self-evaluation. The quality of the report was good. The report provided clear evidence of good progress made following the inspection. The processes used to gather the evidence were effective. The Inspectorate confirms that the findings and recommendations contained in the self-evaluative report are accurate and appropriate, and are an effective response to the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection report.

Good progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. 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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