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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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**Department of Education  
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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Victoria Primary School  
Newtownards**

**October 2008**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF VICTORIA PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTOWNARDS, CO DOWN, BT23 7DD (401-1646)**

The focused inspection in Victoria Primary School, Newtownards in March 2006 highlighted strengths in the school's ethos, attractive learning environment, good links with the parents, committed teachers and caring Principal and identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- the clarification of roles and responsibilities and to use a wider range of first-hand evidence to make judgements on the quality of the children's learning and to set targets for improvement; and
- the dissemination of the existing good practice in mathematics, information and communication technology (ICT) and structured play in order to improve further the standards in the children's learning.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place:

- there have been a number of changes in staffing arrangements, including the appointment of new staff and, the creation of a job-share position;
- interactive whiteboards (IWBs) have been installed within key stage (KS) 2 and learning support classrooms;
- in-service training has been provided for staff; the training focused on the development of problem-solving and investigative mathematics and the analysis of performance data;
- a comprehensive self-evaluative report was produced by the mathematics co-ordinator which identifies appropriately the progress made and the areas for further development;
- the curricular leadership roles and responsibilities of the staff have been developed further; and
- additional resources have been purchased to enhance the development of the play, literacy and ICT programmes.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (the Inspectorate) carried out a series of inspection visits to the school as part of the follow-up process. This report was compiled following the inspection visit on 24 October 2008 and also takes account of the findings of the visit in February 2007.

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

- the good start made by the co-ordinators in evaluating the quality of the provision in their curricular areas;

- the significant developments initiated by the ICT co-ordinator which include the greater integration and use of ICT facilities; the effective use of the IWB in many of the classes; the increasing use of ICT to motivate the children and develop their literacy and numeracy skills; and the KS2 children's full participation in the Council for Curriculum, Examination and Assessment ICT accreditation;
- the clear identification of mathematic investigations and problem-solving activities in the teachers' planning and the monitoring and evaluation of the children's experiences in mathematics;
- the good start made by staff in the use of a range of assessment data to set targets and evaluate the effectiveness of the learning and teaching;
- the review of the play programme which has been enhanced through the purchase of additional resources and the staff's commitment to plan the programme together across each year group; and
- the very good support provided by the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service officers of the South-Eastern Education and Library Board.

The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period contributed significantly to the improvement made in mathematics, and has 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 of self-evaluation now in place are further developed.

Very good progress has been made in the areas of improvement identified during the original inspection. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now very good. The organisation is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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