



*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

**Walker Memorial Primary School
Dungannon**

October 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE SHORT INSPECTION OF WALKER MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE, BT70 3DQ (501-2657)

The short inspection in November 2009 highlighted strengths in the school's ethos, the teaching observed, the work of the Principal and staff, the support for the children with special educational needs and the very good standards attained by the majority of the children in literacy and numeracy.

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

- to review aspects of the School Development Plan to ensure that it reflects fully the priorities for improvement in the school; and
- to ensure that the provision for the children below the statutory school age is in line with the pre-school curricular guidance and is matched appropriately to the children's needs and stage of development.

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

- the school has received substantial support from the Southern Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service regarding the provision for the children below the statutory school age (Reception);
- there have been several changes in the teaching staff and currently 50% of the teachers are employed in a temporary capacity; and
- the school has made a considerable investment in the provision of information and communication technology to support learning and teaching.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 7 October 2011.

The action plans produced by the school in response to the inspection findings were of good quality.

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

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

- the planning for the Reception provision is currently well- matched to the needs of the children and their stage of development and is used effectively by the staff to guide them in their work;
- much attention has been given to creating a stimulating and well-organised learning environment that promotes the children's learning and levels of independence; the children are well settled, spend lengthy periods of purposeful and productive play and respond well to the skilful interactions of the staff;
- the staff have made a good start in the process of drawing up the new School Development Plan and are beginning to identify key priorities for development based on consultation with key stakeholders and the gathering of evidence from the school's assessment procedures.

The following issues require further development:

- ensure that there is appropriate breadth, challenge and progression in the planning for Reception throughout the school year; and
- ensure that the action plans in the school development plan reflect clearly the priorities identified and are sufficiently detailed to help the staff achieve the expected outcome.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Inspectorate will monitor the school's progress on the areas for improvement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- All points of access to the school, including the mobile classroom, need to be secured.

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