



*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

**Annalong Primary School
Co Down**

May 2015

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ANNALONG PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT34 4TH (501-1684)

The inspection of Annalong Primary School in September 2013 highlighted strengths in the pastoral care provision, the children's behaviour and disposition to learning, and the standards in literacy, numeracy and Information Communication Technology.

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

- to provide more effective strategic leadership and management at all levels to effect sustainable improvement in learning and teaching; and
- for all the teachers to develop a shared understanding of and implement, the learning and teaching approaches required to provide literacy and numeracy programmes which meet the needs of all the children more effectively.

The inspection conclusion in September 2013 was that:

'In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in learning and teaching and leadership and management which the school needs to address if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively.'

The Department of Education acknowledged the school's post inspection action plans and the positive response that the school had made, and planned to make, regarding the areas for improvement identified in the report. The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection in May 2015.

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

- the number of teaching staff was reduced by two and the school now operates four composite classes; the enrolment remains steady;
- the senior management structure was reviewed and new coordinators for numeracy and special educational needs took up post in November 2014;
- key curricular and pastoral policies were reviewed;
- the staff agreed and implemented a format and time-table for monitoring and evaluating the provision;
- the staff received tailored support from the Education Authority: Southern Region Curriculum Advisory and Support Service in relation to literacy, numeracy and leadership and management; and
- the nursery unit was refurbished.

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

- the role of the coordinator is clearly defined and well understood, with a more strategic focus on improving the quality of the provision and the standards achieved by the children;

- the well-conceived staff development programme supports effectively the school's key priorities for improvement, and the staff have regular opportunities to discuss and share good practice through a well-paced monitoring and evaluation time-table;
- data is analysed appropriately at whole-school, class and individual levels to identify areas for development and to address underachievement; the school's internal data indicates that almost all of the children are achieving in line with or above expectation;
- the quality of learning and teaching in almost all of the lessons observed during the follow-up process was effective; the pupils engage enthusiastically with paired and group activities which develop their thinking skills and personal capabilities; and
- the high quality provision for play-based learning supports and progresses the children's learning across the curriculum.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address.

The follow-up inspection has identified the need:

- to develop further the monitoring and evaluation strategies to bring about continued and sustained improvement in the learning and teaching.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor, through district inspection activity, the school's progress on the areas for improvement.

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