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*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

**Buick Memorial Primary School and Nursery Unit
Cullybackey**

February 2015

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BUICK MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT, CULLYBACKEY, CO ANTRIM, BT42 1BW (301-0714)

The inspection of Buick Primary School, in April 2012, highlighted the following strengths: the exemplary behaviour of the children; the good pastoral ethos; the examples of the very good and outstanding teaching observed during the inspection; and the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities provided for the children to enrich their learning experiences.

In the nursery unit, the strengths were: the well settled children, most of whom can make independent choices and co-operate well with the daily routines; the good pastoral links established with the primary school; the recent work in developing formats for planning and recording the children's responses to the play activities; and, the recent priority on developing the outdoor learning environment for the children.

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

- for all teachers to differentiate more clearly in their planning and teaching to meet effectively the needs of all the children;
- to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators to effect a coherent and collegial approach to curricular development and to school improvement in order to raise standards; and
- to develop and improve the strategic leadership of the principal and the senior leadership team.

In the nursery unit, the inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to review and improve the organisation of the session to ensure that all time is well-managed and used effectively to develop learning and concentrated play;
- to develop further the planning and assessment methods in order to meet the children's individual needs, to develop the children's language and learning and raise their standards and achievements in all areas of learning; and
- to provide more time for the nursery staff to plan together and improve the overall quality and range of the experiences for the children.

The inspection conclusion in April 2012 was that:

'In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this school and nursery unit is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in standards, in learning and teaching and in leadership and management which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.'

The school development plan was adjusted appropriately in light of the inspection findings and the action plan produced by the school was of a very good quality. The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits with a follow-up inspection on 9 February 2015.

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

- The staff have received very good professional development and support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Services (CASS) of the North-Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) in a number of areas including literacy, numeracy and leadership and management.
- The members of the senior leadership team (SLT) have participated in leadership development training provided by the Regional Training Unit.
- The leadership team has continued to use effectively the target monitoring documents to evaluate and record the progress in addressing the areas for improvement identified in the follow-up inspection.
- There have been a number of changes in staffing, including the appointment of a new vice-principal and the realignment of the co-ordinators' roles.
- The staff have embedded an effective process for monitoring the children's work, including the review of the children's books and the sharing of good practice.
- A new format for the teachers' half-termly planning was agreed and implemented in both the nursery unit and the primary school.
- The SLT has led the staff in making more effective use of the available performance data to identify and respond appropriately to the needs of individual children in all year groups.

The most important improvements since the original inspection include:

- the effective strategic leadership provided by the principal, the senior leadership team and the co-ordinators who monitor and evaluate systematically the provision and the children's attainment;
- the staff's collegial culture and their child-centred approach to addressing the areas for improvement during the follow-up process;
- the effective use of assessment information to identify the individual needs of the children, to identify and address underachievement and low attainment, to track the children's progress and to inform learning and teaching;
- the planning, learning and teaching which takes better account of the range of the children's abilities;
- the consistently high quality of learning and teaching observed during the follow-up process and the engagement of the children in their learning;
- the improved quality of the children's work and the standards they attain. The school's internal assessment information shows that, in English and mathematics, the majority of the children in key stage (KS) 2, including those who require additional support with aspects of their learning, are achieving in line with their ability, or above expectation, and are making good progress in their learning;

- the significant improvement in the special educational needs provision; and
- the improvements in the nursery unit provision including the regular oversight by the nursery unit co-ordinator, the well-organised routines that ensure all time is used effectively to promote learning, the new planning format that guides the staff in their work with the children and the time allocated to the staff for planning together.

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

The areas for improvement are:

- to develop further the children's use of information and communication technology; and
- to develop further the use of observations and assessments in the nursery unit in order to build up a more accurate profile of the children's progress and development over time and to address their individual needs.

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

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