



*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

**Craigbrack Primary School
Eglinton**

December 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE SHORT INSPECTION OF CRAIGBRACK PRIMARY SCHOOL, EGLINTON, BT47 3BE (203-2277)

The short inspection of Craigbrack Primary School in May 2009 highlighted the following strengths: the children's positive attitudes to learning; the very good provision for children with special educational needs; the good use made of information and communication technology to support learning across the curriculum; the very good links established with other schools; and the hard work of the Principal, the teaching and non-teaching staff.

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

- to develop a wider range of strategies in order to ensure sustained improvement in the children's standards in literacy and numeracy; and
- to develop further the role of the co-ordinators in monitoring and evaluating the quality of the provision in order to bring about improvements in learning and teaching.

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

- the enrolment had decreased significantly and the teaching staff has been reduced from five teachers to four;
- the school received staff development and support for literacy and numeracy from the Western Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS);
- a systematic whole-school approach to the teaching of writing has been introduced throughout the school;
- a new numeracy co-ordinator has been appointed and there has been a focus on the development of investigative work and problem solving in mathematics;
- the roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators have been clarified and developed, particularly relating to monitoring and evaluation, and staff development;
- a wide range of initiatives has been introduced to raise the profile of literacy and numeracy throughout the school, and to involve the parents more fully in their children's learning; and
- the school has acquired additional resources to support and enrich the development of numeracy and literacy.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection in December 2011.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality. The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

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

- the literacy and numeracy co-ordinators have benefitted significantly from the well-focused support provided by CASS and they have put in place effective systems to guide the teachers and, to monitor and evaluate the developments and improvements in their areas;
- the quality of teaching in the lessons observed during the follow-up process was mostly good and very good and the teachers are using an extended range of teaching strategies to ensure that the children are engaged purposefully in their learning, for example through investigative work in mathematics, a range of independent writing activities and effective group tasks;
- the teachers organise and facilitate useful workshops and curriculum information sessions for the parents to enable them to support their children's learning;
- there is a strong emphasis on identifying underachievement in literacy and numeracy and most of the children are attaining standards in line with their ability; and
- there is a more systematic and collaborative approach to self-evaluation, including the collation and analysis of performance data to inform planning, to set targets and to track individual, class and whole-school progress.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected the quality of the education provided by the school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed, including the need to ensure sustained improvement in the standards in literacy and numeracy, but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors, and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

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