



*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

**Doagh Primary School
Ballyclare**

June 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF DOAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYCLARE, CO ANTRIM, BT39 0QL (301-0754)

The short inspection of Doagh Primary School in November 2009 highlighted strengths in the quality of the teaching and the good use made of information and communication technology to support this; the children's engagement in their learning, the very good quality of the pastoral care provision and the good start made to the development of active approaches to learning.

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

- the need for more rigorous analysis of all available performance data to inform the school's development plan, to track the children's progress more effectively and to ensure that all the children are achieving in line with their ability; and
- the provision of more clearly focused curricular leadership by the Principal and the management team to raise the overall standards of the children's attainments in literacy and numeracy.

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

- support has been provided by a number of Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) officers in developing literacy and numeracy programmes and assessment procedures;
- a greater focus has been placed on the development of number, writing and reading;
- Assessment Manager is being used to collate information about the children's attainments;
- the enrolment has decreased and currently stands at 67 children, while the number of children entitled to free school meals has increased to just over 10%; and
- the school reports that a Designated Governor has assumed responsibility for Child Protection matters and a number of the governors have received training in the recruitment and vetting of staff.

In response to the inspection findings, the school submitted action plans which were of a good quality. However the School Development Plan (SDP) was not adjusted; the school now needs to create a new SDP, together with detailed action plans, to guide the improvements required.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out two interim follow-up inspection visits and a follow-up inspection on 14 June 2012.

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

- the literacy and numeracy co-ordinators have benefited from the support provided by CASS and have put in place more coherent programmes to guide teaching and learning in these areas;

- the quality of the teaching, which was good or very good in the majority of the lessons observed during the follow-up process;
- the development of writing, including the focus placed on encouraging the children to write creatively and independently; and
- the start made to the use of the assessment data to identify children who may need support with aspects of their learning.

However, the areas for improvement identified at the time of the original inspection still remain to be addressed. These are:

- the need for more rigorous analysis of all available performance data to inform the school's development plan, to track the children's progress more effectively and to ensure that all the children are achieving in line with their ability; and
- the provision of more clearly focused curricular leadership by the Principal and the management team to raise the overall standards of the children's attainments in literacy and numeracy.

CONCLUSION

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided by this school remains satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision.

The school has demonstrated some evidence of improvement but key aspects of the leadership and management, including the need to implement appropriate systems for monitoring and evaluating the work and progress of the school, need to be addressed urgently, if the needs of all of the children are to be met effectively.

The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the remaining areas for improvement.

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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