



*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

**Grange Primary School
Kilkeel**

June 2012

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, KILKEEL, CO DOWN, BT34 4LL (503-1589)

The inspection of Grange Primary School in April 2009 highlighted strengths, including the strong family ethos in the school; the good working relationships; and the good use of the internal and external environments of the school for learning. The inspection team also noted the good quality of the majority of the teaching observed; the good standards attained by the majority of the children in literacy and numeracy; the effective management of the school by the Principal and Vice-principal; and the school's developing processes for self-evaluation and school development planning to bring about improvement.

The inspection also identified the following key areas for improvement:

- to address the poor quality of learning and teaching in one class; and
- to raise the standards of attainment in literacy and numeracy for a minority of the children.

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

- the enrolment has decreased from 106 to 97; and the percentage of children entitled to free school meals has increased from 18% to 36%;
- the percentage of children with medical or additional learning needs has increased from 13% to 22%;
- there have been significant changes in staffing, including the appointment of a new Principal, Vice-principal, permanent teacher and principal-release teacher ;
- an additional teacher has been appointed, on a part-time basis, to provide support for those children who are experiencing difficulty with aspects of their learning and for the small number of children who are underachieving;
- two of the teachers have completed training in Numeracy Catch-up;
- the school has implemented a reading partnership programme to support children who would benefit from a short-term boost in reading;
- the Principal and Vice-principal have reviewed the school's assessment and recording procedures;
- the literacy and numeracy co-ordinators have completed training in the analysis and effective use of the school's internal performance data to bring about improvement; and
- the school has received very good support from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and from the Southern Education and Library Board Curriculum and Advisory Support Services.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits (IFUVs) and a follow-up inspection on 11 June 2012.

The school produced an appropriate action plan in response to the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements since the inspection:

- the quality of the teaching is now consistently good or better;
- the Principal and co-ordinators are making good use of a range of strategies, including the analysis of internal data, to identify areas for whole-school development, to assess individual children's levels of attainment and to track the children's progress;
- the intervention programmes in literacy and numeracy have led to improvements in the standards attained by targeted groups of the children;
- the number of children who are under-achieving is now very small and, the school records indicate that, these children are making steady improvement towards achieving their expected outcomes; and
- the newly appointed Principal provides effective leadership and guidance for the school community.

An area for improvement is the need to:

- implement a more consistent, whole-school approach to the development of the children's oracy skills and to provide the children with more opportunities to use these skills to articulate their learning, particularly in literacy and numeracy.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified an area for improvement which the school has demonstrated its capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the school's progress on the area for improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2012

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website:
www.etini.gov.uk

