



*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

**Holy Child Primary School
Derry**

November 2013

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF HOLY CHILD PRIMARY SCHOOL, DERRY, BT48 9QQ (203-0381)

The focused inspection of Holy Child Primary School and Nursery Unit in November 2011, highlighted the following strengths: the strong pastoral provision for the children and their families; the very good behaviour of almost all of the children; the good to outstanding teaching observed in the majority of classes across the school and nursery unit; the very good use made of ICT to support learning and teaching and the effective leadership of the Principal and the good support provided by the governors.

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

- ensure consistency of best practice in teaching and learning for all the children in order to raise the literacy and numeracy standards;
- develop further the shared understanding and commitment of the staff to the strategic direction and development of the school; and
- develop a more rigorous process of self-evaluation and action-planning for improvement.

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

- there have been a number of staff changes and redeployment of responsibilities in the school including the appointment of a new VP, literacy, numeracy and early years co-ordinators;
- the roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators have been clarified and further developed to include monitoring, evaluation and leading staff development; and
- the staff have received professional development and support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) of the Western Education and Library Board (WELB) in a number of areas including literacy and numeracy;

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits in the primary School and a follow-up inspection in November 2013.

The action plans produced by the school in response to the inspection findings were of a good quality. The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The following are the most important improvements in the primary school since the original inspection:

- the highly effective, committed and strategic leadership provided by the Principal, supported well by the vice-principal, which has resulted in a collaborative culture and approach to promoting school improvement;
- the rigorous process of school development planning and the strong culture of self-evaluation supported by well-focused staff development, which has led to significant improvements in provision, particularly in the foundation stage;

- the better use made of performance data to identify low and under-achievement in literacy and numeracy, to identify curricular areas for development and set targets for further improvement;
- the improved quality and consistency of the teaching across all key stages evidenced by the good to outstanding lessons observed during the follow-up process; and
- the improving trends in the quality of the children's literacy and numeracy and the overall standards they attain.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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