



*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

**St Peter's Primary School
Belfast**

March 2015

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT12 4JD (103-6620)

The inspection of St Peter's Primary School, Belfast, in May 2013, highlighted the following strengths: the motivation and very good behaviour of the children; the good standards achieved by the children in literacy, numeracy and ICT; the examples of good or better teaching in the majority of lessons observed during the inspection; the broad and balanced curriculum provided for the children; the very good arrangements for pastoral care; and the good links and partnerships established with the parents, a range of schools and other agencies.

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

- to provide consistently high quality teaching in all the classes throughout the school;
- to review and improve the provision for special educational needs; and
- to develop more robust processes for monitoring and evaluation to improve further the standards and achievements, particularly those in KS1.

The inspection conclusion was that:

'In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this school 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 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 three interim follow up visits with a follow-up inspection on 18 March 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 Belfast Education and Library Board (BELB) for literacy and numeracy.
- The roles and responsibilities of the senior and middle managers have been reviewed and developed with core teams established to promote a more inclusive and distributed leadership structure within the school.
- There have been a number of changes in the teaching staff.
- The outdoor play areas have been enhanced for the children and health and safety issues relating to the school grounds have been addressed.

The most important improvements since the original inspection include:

- the staff's collegial approach to addressing the areas for improvement during the follow-up process;
- the effective strategic leadership provided by the senior leadership team who monitor closely and evaluate more robustly the learning and teaching to improve further the standards and achievements of all the children;
- the more rigorous use of assessment information to track the children's progress, to inform learning and teaching and to identify the key areas of the provision, particularly in mathematics, that need further development;
- the measures being taken to reduce underachievement in mathematics and the initial indications of improvement;
- the consistently high quality of the teaching observed across the school; and
- the comprehensive planning and detailed evaluations that are focused on the children's learning and are used effectively to guide the teachers in their work and to inform future learning.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its 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:

- continue to address the underachievement in mathematics; and
- ensure that all targets set in the IEPs are specific and measurable and plan strategically for the future SEN provision in the school.

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

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