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*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**

**Tullycarnet Primary School  
Belfast**

**November 2014**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF TULLYCARNET PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT5 7FH (401-3038)**

The focused inspection in January 2013 highlighted strengths in the nurturing and inclusive learning environment, the provision for special educational needs, the wide range of extracurricular activities and the effectiveness of the leadership and management of the school. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- raise the standards in literacy and numeracy through a more consistent approach to differentiation and progression; and
- improve the quality of both oral and written feedback to the children about the standard of their work and how to improve it and to involve them in setting their personal learning targets.

The overall evaluation in January 2013 was satisfactory.

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

- A revised marking policy has been developed and implemented by all the teachers.
- The staff have engaged in further professional training in aspects of both literacy and numeracy.
- The numeracy coordinator has led the staff in implementing lines of progression for numeracy.
- Two part-time teachers have been employed to give withdrawal support in both literacy and numeracy; one through the Delivering Social Change Programme.
- The Nurture Room has been refurbished.
- A new computer suite has been developed.
- A new outdoor play ground and garden area have been created.
- The school received valued support from the South Eastern Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory Support Service.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits in the interval since the initial inspection and a follow-up (FUI) inspection on 25 November 2014.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of good quality.

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

- the school's internal assessment data shows that most of the children, in years 4 to 7, are achieving in line with their ability or above expectation in English and mathematics;

- the revised marking policy is evident through the greater consistency of marking in the children's books across the year groups;
- marking for improvement is clearly linked to learning intentions and success criteria;
- in the samples viewed, most of the children are making good progress in their written work;
- the children are more meaningfully involved in setting their own learning targets;
- the teachers give the children more regular and rigorous opportunities to self-assess their own work;
- the teachers analyse and utilise the evidence from classroom observation and the quality of the work produced by the children to inform further the learning and teaching;
- there are clearer and more rigorous links between the monitoring process, action planning and implementation leading to improvement;
- the quality of the teaching observed during the FUI ranged from very good to satisfactory; in the best practice, the teachers have high expectations of what the children can do and match the learning activities to meet the individual needs and interests well; and
- the new planning format meets more effectively the diverse needs of the children and guides the staff in their day-to-day work.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now good; the quality of pastoral care is also good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The inspection has identified an area of improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address.

There remains a need for:

- the teachers to provide more opportunities for the children to undertake extended writing to include appropriate access to information and communication technology for research, editing and recording.

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

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