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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**

**Ballynahinch Primary School  
Co Down**

**February 2011**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BALLYNAHINCH PRIMARY SCHOOL, CO DOWN, BT24 8BB (401-1567)**

The inspection in Ballynahinch Primary School highlighted strengths in the good or better quality of the teaching in the lessons observed; the celebration of the children's work; the good behaviour of the children; and the very good attention given to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The inspection stated that the strategic leadership and management of the school are inadequate and need to improve and also identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to ensure, as a matter of urgency, that all members of the teaching and non-teaching staff receive appropriate training in child protection and that the arrangements for child protection are made known to all parents;
- in relation to the nursery unit, the school management team also need to ensure that incidents in relation to the personal care of the children are documented and shared with the parents;
- to revise the school development plan and its associated processes ensuring that it is based on a rigorous self-evaluation process with an essential focus on literacy and numeracy;
- to improve the monitoring and evaluation of the provision and the standards for literacy and numeracy; and
- to review the roles and responsibilities of staff in the school.

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

- new designated and deputy designated teachers for Child Protection were appointed, appropriate training was accessed and updated information was issued to parents;
- the nursery has established a new system for recording and sharing with the parents incidents in relation to the personal care of the children;
- new co-ordinators in numeracy and, more recently, information and communication technology were appointed and dedicated time was provided for the co-ordination of subject areas;
- the senior management team has accessed appropriate training in order to develop the strategic leadership of the school; and
- the Vice-principal has been assigned the role of curriculum leader, with the specific responsibility of supporting the subject co-ordinators.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 4 February 2011.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality and was adjusted appropriately in light of feedback given by the Inspectorate during the monitoring visits.

The school's development plan (SDP) has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The SDP meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education (DE.)

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

- the overall strategic leadership of the senior management team and co-ordinators is now good;
- the school now has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education;
- an appropriate range of quantitative and qualitative evidence is analysed effectively and used appropriately by the teachers and co-ordinators to raise further the standards the children achieve in literacy and numeracy;
- the SDP is now fully compliant with DE regulations; the SDP and associated action plans are based on a rigorous self-evaluation process which clearly identifies the priorities for school improvement; and
- more robust procedures for the monitoring and evaluation of the learning and teaching are now in place.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this organisation is now good. The organisation has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The follow-up inspection has identified some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed, including the need to raise further the standards in literacy and numeracy, but equally the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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