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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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*Providing Inspection Services for*  
**Department of Education  
Department for Employment and Learning  
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**Bellarena Primary School  
Limavady**

**June 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE SHORT INSPECTION OF BELLARENA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIMAVADY, CO LONDONDERRY, BT49 0JB (201-2087)**

The short inspection in February 2007 highlighted strengths in, the family ethos and good working relationships within the school, the hard-working and committed staff, the quality of the children's responses, the enthusiastic leadership of the Principal and the contribution made by the non-teaching staff. The inspection identified the need for improvement in the following key areas:

- to focus short-term planning more sharply on what the children are expected to know, understand and be able to do;
- to review and develop the school's homework policy in consultation with the parents; and
- to use assessment for learning in order to effect further improvement in the standards the children attain.

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

- additional hours have been secured for the part-time teacher and there is additional support for children with special educational needs;
- teachers have received in-service training in assessment for learning from the Western Education and Library Board's Curriculum Advisory and Support Service and used school based days to review their teaching and assessment strategies;
- the enrolment has fallen from 42 pupils to 34;
- a homework policy has been developed and implemented in consultation with the parents;
- resources have been purchased with the support of the parents to enhance the provision for literacy, information and communication technology and play;
- extensive work has been done in improving the security and general upkeep of the school and its grounds.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 3 June 2009.

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

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

Good progress has been made in most of the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address a few remaining minor areas for improvement.

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

- the short-term planning is more focused and identifies the learning intentions in terms of key knowledge, understanding and skills;

- the homework policy is implemented consistently by the teachers;
- the detailed whole school assessment policy guides the work of the teachers in developing effectively a range of assessment for learning strategies;
- the purposeful use of learning intentions and success criteria in lessons helps support the children in their learning; and
- the teachers share appropriate individual and group targets with the children and use them effectively to monitor their progress.

The school now needs to extend the good practice in monitoring and evaluating the short-term planning to identify the extent to which the learning intentions have been met.

Since the inspection, the school evaluated the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The Inspectorate recommends that the processes for self-evaluation now in place are further developed to bring about improvement.

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 some aspects of the areas for improvement still to be addressed but equally the school has demonstrated the capacity to address these.

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