

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

Damhead Primary School Coleraine

June 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO FOCUSED INSPECTION OF DAMHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY, BT52 1UF (301-2225)

The focused inspection of Damhead Primary School, in January 2009, highlighted the following strengths: the school's welcoming ethos; the children's very good behaviour; the good or better quality of most of the teaching; the very good arrangements for pastoral care; the very good support for children requiring additional help with aspects of their learning; and the hard work and dedication of the Principal, the teaching and non-teaching staff.

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

- to revise the school development plan (SDP) to ensure there is an appropriate focus in literacy and numeracy;
- to improve monitoring and evaluation of the provision and the standards the children achieve in literacy and numeracy;
- to review the roles and responsibilities within the school.

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

- support has been provided by officers from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the North-Eastern Education and Library Board, particularly in relation to literacy, numeracy and the effective use of data;
- the roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators have been reviewed and clarified:
- a key stage (KS) 2 teacher has been appointed to the senior management team;
- the school has formalised its procedures for monitoring the quality of the children's learning:
- the school uses computer software to help analyse the children's performance in English and mathematics; and
- the school has acquired additional resources to support and enrich the development of numeracy and literacy.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits and a follow-up inspection on 14 June 2011.

The action plan produced by the school in response to the inspection findings was of a satisfactory quality. The SDP, which has been adjusted in light of the original inspection findings, is of a satisfactory quality also.

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

- the SDP now has literacy and numeracy identified as priorities and there are associated action plans that target improvements in the children's standards;
- there are effective procedures in place for monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching;

- the literacy and numeracy co-ordinators have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities and lead these areas appropriately:
- the end of KS2 assessment outcomes in English and mathematics have improved and the school can demonstrate, through their internal data, the good year-on-year progress made by most of the children;
- there is effective analysis and use of data to evaluate the children's outcomes and to inform future learning; and
- the Principal has led appropriately the dissemination of effective practice.

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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