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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**

**Leaney Primary School  
Ballymoney**

**November 2009**

## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF LEANEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYMONEY BT53 7AL (301-3325)**

The focused inspection in November 2007 highlighted strengths in the high quality of the pastoral care and the well-behaved children, the high quality of the provision for the children with special educational needs, the Principal's commitment to the pastoral care of the children and to the well-being of the staff, and the Governors' active participation in the life and work of the school.

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

- to develop the leadership and management roles of the co-ordinators to provide a sharper focus on monitoring and evaluating the quality of teaching and learning and the standards achieved by the children; and
- to ensure suitable progression in the children's experiences in literacy.

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

- the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) officers have supported the teachers in developing their planning for the teaching of key reading skills and with the introduction of phonics into the foundation stage literacy programme;
- a new commercial reading scheme has been purchased for key stage 2;
- the Literacy Co-ordinator has attended CASS in-service courses on writing;
- a new whole-school scheme for writing has been developed, including guidance highlighting appropriate progression in the different genres of writing;
- additional opportunities for the teachers to plan together have been further developed;
- the roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators, particularly relating to monitoring and evaluating, have been clarified; and
- the Principal has led the training of co-ordinators in classroom observation.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two interim follow-up visits in May 2008 and March 2009 and a follow-up inspection on 20 November 2009.

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

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

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

- the action plans within the SDP are based on first hand evidence, including that from classroom observations;
- appropriate progression is evident in the children's writing for different purposes;

- in the lessons observed, the teachers matched effectively the work to the children's abilities while having high expectations for the standards they will achieve; and
- a culture of self-evaluation exists, which enabled the school to demonstrate clear evidence of improvement.

During the follow-up inspection, the quality of the teaching in the lessons observed was very good.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is now very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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