



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

**McKinney Primary School Nursery Unit
Dundrod**

March 2016

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MCKINNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, DUNDROD (401-0512)

The original inspection carried out in March 2014 concluded that the quality of education provided in the nursery unit was satisfactory; the strengths outweighed areas for improvement in the provision.

The areas for improvement included the need to:

- improve the quality of the adult interactions in exploiting fully the learning opportunities for the children in all areas of the curriculum; and
- review and develop further the methods of planning, assessment and evaluation to meet more effectively the needs of the children¹.

The Education and Training inspectorate (ETI) carried out a monitoring visit during 2015-16 with a follow-up inspection in March 2016.

The action plans received by the Department of Education following the inspection were of a good quality.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following key actions which affect the work of the nursery unit have taken place:

- links and working relationships have been developed further with the primary school through the establishment of a team comprising of staff from the nursery unit, foundation stage and key stage 1. This team meets regularly throughout the year to discuss aspects of provision and to plan a transition programme;
- the staff in the nursery unit have visited a number of other nursery settings to observe practice and learn from the experience and expertise of other practitioners;
- the board of governors has afforded additional time to the nursery assistant to allow her to become more involved in planning. The staff have reviewed and amended their approach to planning and evaluating; and
- improvements have been made to the learning environment making it more attractive and child-centred.

Key Findings

- All of the staff are more effective in their interactions with the children. Their skilful questioning encourages the children to extend their thinking and empowers them to problem solve and to make choices and decisions for themselves. The quality of learning and teaching is now good.

¹ <http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/inspection-reports/inspection-reports-primary/inspection-reports-primary-2014/primary-inspection-mckinney-primary-school-and-nursery-unit-dundrod-co-antrim.htm>

- The methods for planning and evaluation have been revised. The planned curricular programme and the enhanced learning environment provide an appropriately challenging and stimulating curriculum for the children. Planning is now guided by the individual areas of learning within the pre-school curriculum and the staff are developing well their understanding of 'learning-focused' planning rather than planning that is activity led. The planning now includes key vocabulary and questions which are supporting the staff well in improving the quality of their interactions with the children. The staff have identified the need to link the observations more explicitly to the planning to extend further the more able children also in their learning.
- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good.

Overall effectiveness

McKinney Primary School Nursery Unit has demonstrated the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the nursery unit sustains improvement.

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