



*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

**Mullavilly Primary School
Tandragee**

May 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE SHORT INSPECTION OF MULLAVILLY PRIMARY SCHOOL, TANDRAGEE, CO ARMAGH, BT62 2LX (501-1095)

The short inspection of Mullavilly Primary School in October 2009 highlighted the following strengths: the very good working relationships at all levels and the high standards of behaviour of the children; the extensive range of extra-curricular activities to promote learning; the good or better teaching in half of the lessons observed; the satisfactory standards attained by the children in literacy and numeracy by the end of key stage 2 (KS) 2; the well-constructed school development plan (SDP) and associated action plans; and the very good leadership provided by the Principal who has a strong vision for the future development of the school.

The inspection identified the following areas for improvement:

- to develop a more rigorous and strategic approach to monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching throughout the school; and
- to meet more appropriately the needs of all learners.

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

- the appointment of three new members of the teaching staff;
- an extensive range of well-targeted staff development focused on learning and teaching and the role of the co-ordinators, including the effective support from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service of the Southern Education and Library Board;
- an increase in the proportion of the children entitled to free school meals to 15.5%;
- the increase in curricular links with parents through the development of the school's website, training sessions and information leaflets;
- the introduction of a new phonics scheme, and intervention programmes for the children who are underachieving in literacy and numeracy;
- the review of assessment arrangements and the development of a target-setting process; and
- the review of the teachers' short-term planning.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an interim follow-up visit, and a follow-up inspection on 26 May 2011.

The Board of Governors responded positively to the original inspection report. The action plans, which they developed to address the areas for improvement, were of a very good quality.

The SDP has also been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- the significant improvement in the quality of learning and teaching; in almost all of the lessons observed during the follow-up inspection the quality of the teaching was very good or outstanding;
- the improved standards attained by the children in literacy and numeracy;
- the engagement of the children in their learning, including the more extended oral responses, their levels of independence and their critical and creative thinking;
- the very good quality of the teachers' short-term planning to meet the needs of the children, including the effective evaluation of the children's learning to inform future planning; and
- the outstanding strategic leadership of the Principal in the rigorous monitoring and evaluation of learning and teaching throughout the school.

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 self-improvement.

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