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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**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Newtownstewart Model Primary School
Omagh**

December 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF NEWTOWNSTEWART MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT78 4EX (201-6262)

The short inspection of Newtownstewart Model Primary School in October 2006 highlighted the strengths of the school including:

- the warm and welcoming atmosphere within the school;
- the strong emphasis placed on promoting pastoral care within the school;
- the quality of many of the children's responses, their application to the work, their co-operation with one another on shared tasks and their very good behaviour;
- the committed, enthusiastic staff;
- the quality of the teaching in most of the classes, which was always satisfactory and at times very good;
- the start made in terms of promoting a culture for self-evaluation;
- the vision and commitment of the Principal to school development and improvement; and
- the high quality of the accommodation, maintenance and cleaning.

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

- the need to put in place effective procedures to monitor and evaluate provision and outcomes to bring about improvement;
- the need to ensure that the good practice which exists in many classes is shared throughout the school; and
- the need to take greater account of the specific needs of all children when planning for their learning.

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

- the school has engaged in a programme of development and improvement in collaboration with officers from the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) of the Western Education and Library Board reviewing and developing, in particular, learning outcomes, differentiating work and special educational needs; and
- there were a number of extended absences during the 2007-08 academic year which have hindered progress in some areas.

The Education and Training Inspectorate visited the school on 2 October 2008 and carried out a follow-up inspection on 10 December 2008.

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

- staff have reflected well on their own classroom practice and examined the indicators of effective learning and teaching in order to disseminate the school's very good practice into all classrooms;

- the school's approach to meeting the needs of children with special educational needs has been thoroughly reviewed. The use of Education Plans is now targeted appropriately on the needs of the children. Parents are involved in the process and kept informed of progress; and
- procedures to monitor and evaluate provision have been enhanced and a culture of self-evaluation and improvement is being embedded.

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 are developed to focus more strongly on self-evaluation as a means to bring about improvement, in particular to disseminate more effectively the school's best practice consistently into all classrooms.

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 provision. The school has demonstrated the capacity to address any remaining areas for improvement.

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