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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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**Department of Education**  
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## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Follow-up Inspection**

**The William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School**  
**Dervock, Ballymoney**

**January 2007**

**SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAMME (SSP) FOLLOW-UP INSPECTION OF THE WILLIAM PINKERTON MEMORIAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, DERVOCK, BALLYMONEY, CO ANTRIM, BT53 8BB (301-0842)**

The focused inspection in January 2006 highlighted the following strengths:

- the caring and supportive atmosphere;
- the stimulating environment which celebrates the children's work and achievements;
- the excellent working relationships;
- the effective team-work of the teaching and support staff;
- the good quality of the reviewed planning for literacy;
- the quality of the teaching, the majority of which is good and, on occasions, excellent;
- the range of purposeful strategies to promote the children's confidence and to extend their thinking;
- the good progress in the use of mental mathematics;
- the effective integration and use of information and communication technology (ICT) to enhance the children's learning;
- the high quality of the support for those children with special educational needs; and
- the positive leadership of the Principal and the reflective staff who are prepared to review and refine their practice.

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

- the further development of activity-based learning;
- a more rigorous collation and analysis of assessment data to inform further planning and teaching; and
- the more consistent extension of the school's literacy strategies across other areas of the curriculum.

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

- the acquisition of additional commercial assessment resources by which to analyse the children's learning;
- the participation in a range of appropriate in-service training focused on activity-based learning and the use of assessment data;
- the staff's continuing focus on, and commitment to, the development of clear and comprehensive action plans to guide and support learning and teaching;
- the provision of good quality initial training and support by the officers of the Curriculum Advisory and Support Service (CASS) of the North-Eastern Education and Library Board; and
- the visits to other schools to review good practice in order to promote professional development and reflection.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) carried out a follow-up inspection on 18 January 2007. The teaching observed was consistently good and often excellent.

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

- the appropriate identification of the intended learning in the teachers' planning;
- the good progress in developing an appropriate scheme of activity-based learning which indicates clearly the progression of skills and learning experiences;
- the consistent organisation of the lessons to involve the children more, to provide independent learning and to allow more opportunities for extended oral and written work and the application of ICT skills; and
- the more rigorous and systematic analysis of performance data to evaluate the effectiveness of the learning and teaching.

The following important area for development was discussed and agreed with the school:

- the need to extend more consistently the school's literacy strategies across other areas of the curriculum.

The school has made very good progress in its agenda for improvement under the SSP. It still requires, however, the well-focused CASS support and additional financial funding to assist it in making further progress for the benefit of the children's learning experiences in ICT and literacy. The Inspectorate will continue to monitor the work of the school and report on its progress.

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