



*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

**Vere Foster Primary School
Belfast**

June 2011

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF VERE FOSTER PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT12 7HG (101-0321)

The focused inspection in Vere Foster Primary School highlighted strengths in the welcoming and supportive ethos which permeates the school, the very good quality of the provision for pastoral care, the friendly and well-mannered children who co-operate well with their teachers and with each other; and the commitment of the Principal and the staff in promoting effective links with the parents in supporting the needs of their children.

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

- for the Principal to work collaboratively with the staff to raise standards in both literacy and numeracy through a more rigorous and systematic approach to monitoring and evaluation; and
- to review the roles and responsibilities of staff.

In the interval since the inspection, the following action which affects the work of the school has taken place.

- The school's enrolment has continued to decline and, at the time of the follow-up inspection stood at 41.

The Belfast Education and Library Board published a Development Proposal seeking the approval of the Department of Education (DE) to cease educational provision in Vere Foster Primary School with effect from 31 August 2011, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Minister gave very careful consideration to this proposal and decided that it should be approved.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a very good quality. The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by DE.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out monitoring visits and a follow-up inspection on 3 June 2011.

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

- the Principal provides more effective curricular leadership and sets the tone for professional dialogue around the core business of the school;
- a more corporate approach to the work of the school was adopted by the Principal and middle-managers, including a more equitable distribution of roles and responsibilities;
- the subject co-ordinators have a stronger role in monitoring the teachers' planning and samples of the children's work;
- the co-ordinators are working together more closely with a sharper focus on raising standards of attainment in literacy and numeracy, and on self-evaluation leading to improvement;

- data is used more effectively by the teachers in order to inform the setting of targets for improvement; individual, class and whole-school targets are more realistic and measurable and the children's progress is reviewed regularly; and
- the teachers reflected on their practice, invested in a wider range of approaches that take more account of the children's varying abilities and raised their expectations in relation to the outcomes that the children are capable of achieving.

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 and very good pastoral provision.

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