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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**



Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**Hollywood Primary School
Co Down**

March 2010

Chairperson of the Board of Governors
Holywood Primary School
Hillview Place
HOLYWOOD
Co Down
BT18 9DL

26 April 2010

Dear Sir/Madam

The Education and Training Inspectorate conducted a follow-up inspection of Holywood Primary School in March 2010. The reporting inspector, Mrs B Lyttle, has already given you feedback. Attached is a copy of the follow-up inspection report.

The Department will not send copies of this short report to parents, although the school may send out copies if it so wishes, or inform parents that the report is available.

In line with usual practice, the report will be published on the website of the Department of Education after 28 April 2010. Any person who wishes to have a copy of the report may obtain one, on request, from Inspection Services Branch.

Yours sincerely



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Inspection Services Branch

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOCUSED INSPECTION OF HOLYWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL, CO DOWN, BT18 9DL (401-1631)

The focused inspection in Holywood Primary School in May 2008 highlighted strengths in the school's learning environment; the good standards achieved by most of the children in mathematics; the varied range of extra-curricular activities; the effective use of practical equipment used to support learning and teaching in mathematics; the hard-working and dedicated teachers; and the strong links established with, and support of, the governors, parents, and the local community for the work of the school.

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

- develop further the role of the co-ordinators to include the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of the learning within their areas of responsibility;
- ensure that the work within mathematic lessons is differentiated and provides appropriate pace and challenge to meet the needs and abilities of all the children; and
- review the numeracy planning to ensure continuity and progression throughout the school using all available data to set appropriate targets and inform further planning and teaching.

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

- The Principal left after the inspection, to take up post in another school and the Vice-principal retired. An acting principal and two acting vice-principals took up post.
- Two beginning teachers took up post.
- The roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators have been redefined.
- The school received excellent support from the South-Eastern Education and Library Board Curriculum Advisory and Support Services.
- Arrangements for the collection of children at the end of the day have been reviewed.
- Co-ordinators attended relevant training.
- 'Playboard' personnel assisted the staff in developing outdoor activities during break and play time.
- The assessment co-ordinator has had training in Assessment Manager software and has begun to analyse the data from the standardised test to set whole-class and individual targets to meet the needs of all of the children more effectively.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out an interim follow-up inspection visit in November 2009 and a follow-up inspection in March 2010.

The action plan produced by the organisation in response to the inspection findings was of a good quality.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The development plan meets the statutory requirements as set out by the Department of Education.

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

- the Acting-principal has worked extremely hard, with all of the staff, to address the areas identified for improvement in the original inspection; she has provided excellent leadership for the staff and has ensured that the pace of change has been well planned;
- the new co-ordinators and acting vice-principals have drawn up appropriate action plans which have supported the development and improvement of the provision for learning in their areas of responsibility;
- there is evidence of effective ongoing monitoring and evaluation, by the Acting-principal, of classroom practice and through the introduction of book-scoops the quality of the marking in the children's books is more focused;
- most of the teachers demonstrate that they are becoming reflective practitioners through their meaningful and honest evaluations of their practice and are using this information effectively to inform their future planning;
- during the visit, very good interaction was generally observed between the teachers and the children. The children are keen to talk about their work and join in group discussions;
- classroom observations indicated that that tasks set for the children are suitably differentiated and extension tasks provided for the more able children;
- the co-ordinators for numeracy and literacy have worked hard to address the areas for development identified in the original inspection; and
- the play programme, for the early years, is showing some evidence of improvement. In the best practice the play programme is supporting effectively the development of the children's learning across the curriculum.

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 learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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