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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

**St Mary's Primary School
Dungiven, Londonderry**

June 2008

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNGIVEN, LONDONDERRY, BT47 4PZ (203-6458)

The focused inspection in February 2006 highlighted some strengths in aspects of the school's provision including the strong family ethos, the commitment of the teachers and the friendly, well-behaved children. The inspection identified shortcomings in key areas and the need for improvement in:

- the standards attained by the children in mathematics;
- the provision made for the full range of abilities within classes; and
- the monitoring and evaluating of the quality of learning and teaching.

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

- a new principal has been appointed;
- a new classroom assistant has been appointed to support learning and teaching in the key stage 2 class;
- new resources have been purchased to support the teaching of mathematics;
- with the support of the Western Education and Library Board's curricular officers, processes have been developed to analyse and evaluate the children's attainments; and
- additional information and communication technology (ICT) resources, including an interactive whiteboard have been procured.

The Education and Training Inspectorate carried out two monitoring visits in September 2006 and May 2007 and conducted a follow-up inspection on 5 June 2008.

The school's development plan has been adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

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

- the teaching observed is differentiated appropriately to address the particular needs of the children within the classes;
- the quality of the children's learning is more effective and the standards they attain in mathematics are much improved;
- the children's progress is monitored and evaluated in a more systematic and effective manner;

- the children's ICT skills are developed further through their involvement in the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment ICT Accreditation scheme;
- the children have enhanced opportunities for involvement in extra-curricular activities and competitions;
- the parents have greater opportunities, through parent workshops and other initiatives, to become involved in the work of their children and the life of the school; and
- the Principal provides committed, enthusiastic and highly effective leadership.

Since the inspection, the school has developed processes to evaluate the progress made in the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection. The promotion of a self-evaluative culture throughout the follow-up inspection period has contributed significantly to the improvements made, and helped the school identify appropriately its priorities for future development.

Excellent progress has been made in the areas for improvement identified during the original inspection. The educational and pastoral needs of the children are being very well met. The parents and broader community can have confidence in the effectiveness of the school's response to the findings of the inspection and its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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