



'Being the best that we can be'

6 December 2016

Dear parents,

As you know we had our 'Interim Follow-Up Visit' from the ETI (Education and Training Inspectorate) yesterday.

Our District Inspector, Jill Garland and John Murray spent the day in St. Joseph's. They spoke to me as Acting Principal as well as the Literacy, Numeracy and ICT Co-ordinators and our SENCO. They visited 7 classes in all to observe lessons, discussed improvements with representatives from the Board of Governors and were in a position to give us verbal feedback in the afternoon.

I wanted to let you know that the feedback was extremely positive. Here are just some of the things the inspectors said:

- The Leadership Team and Literacy, Numeracy, ICT Special Educational Needs Coordinators have carried out a high quality job in leading school improvement so far;
- There is a very positive ethos within the school;
- Teachers were very welcoming in class;
- There are no barriers to improvement and they saw nothing negative at all;
- All of the lessons observed were good or better;
- The pupils were all very engaged in lessons...they are developing a wide range of thinking skills and personal capabilities...They saw children who were all very used to working in groups;
- The focus in lessons was on skills and not just the content which is excellent;
- They saw lots of differentiation...in the planning and in the delivery of lessons;
- The children's learning is being adapted to meet their needs;
- Classroom assistants worked well in helping with differentiation...they saw innovative ways of working with classroom assistants;
- Newly adapted Literacy and Numeracy planning is very good. Evaluations are concentrated on the learning. They saw the planners being used as working documents and detailed planning folders in all classes;
- There is evidence of a positive culture within the school and an openness to change;
- They could see the wide range of Continual Professional Development available to staff this term alone;
- They could see coordinators had the chance to feed first hand evidence to governors;
- Increased communication to parents is very good eg Friday Note;
- The new 'House System' provides a rounded culture and ethos within the school.

As a whole school community we are delighted with this feedback at such an early stage in the school improvement journey. I would like to thank all of our staff for their hard work and commitment to improvement this term and I would like to thank you as parents for your continual support on this journey.

Best regards

Pauline Fleming



Acting Principal: Mrs Pauline Fleming BA PGCE PQH(NI)
Email: pfleming930@c2kni.net

Acting Vice-Principal: Mr Gavin Gallagher BEd PQH(NI)
Email: ggallagher630@c2kni.net
Tel: 92674901 Fax: 9262907
www.stjosephsschool.org
Twitter: @stjosephlisburn