

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Kilronan Pre-School,
Magherafelt

Report of an Inspection
in October 2012



Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



CONTENTS

Section		Page
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Inspection methods and evidence base	1
3.	Overall finding of the inspection	1
4.	Children's achievements	1
5.	Provision for learning	2
6.	Leadership and management	2

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school setting:	Kilronan Pre-School
Address:	Kilronan Special School 46 Kilronan Road MAGHERAFELT Co Londonderry BT45 6EN
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	25 October 2012
Date of previous inspection:	N/A

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
attending the pre-school setting	6	5
in their immediate pre-school year	6	3
funded by Department of Education (DE)	6	3
qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	3	-
with a statement of special educational needs	-	3
without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	6	5
with English as an additional language	-	-
who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	-	-
Attendance:		
attendance** of funded children for the previous school year	84.5%	

* Special Educational Needs = fewer than five

** Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	3	2
Number of staff holding a recognised child care qualification		
Number of staff holding a recognised teaching qualification	1	
New appointments within previous 12 months		

Number of: ***	
Students	0
Trainees	0

*** Total placements since September of current year

3. Details of Sessions

Duration of morning session	Duration of afternoon session	Number of days open in previous year
2½ hours	2½ hours	185

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	10
Percentage returned	70%
Number of written comments:	4

1. Introduction

In 2009, the North Eastern Education and Library Board (NEELB) established a pre-school class in Kilonan School, Magherafelt for children with potential severe and complex special educational needs. Three of the children are attending the pre-school class for a second year.

2. Inspection methods and evidence base

The inspection evaluations are based on evidence gained from in-class observations and from a range of documentation provided by the school.

The views of the parents, the staff within the pre-school class, and the school's governors were sought through a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Ten questionnaires were issued to the parents and seven were returned. All of the staff working in the pre-school class and five members of the Board of Governors also returned the questionnaires. All of the returns from the questionnaires indicated high levels of satisfaction with the work of the pre-school class. The reporting inspector shared the responses from the questionnaires with the staff and the members of the management group who attended the oral report back.

3. Overall finding of the inspection

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the pre-school class is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The school has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

Summary of key findings

Children's Achievements Quality of Provision Leadership and management	Outstanding Outstanding Outstanding
--	---

KEY FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION

4. Children's achievements

The quality of the children's achievements is outstanding.

- The children are learning to play and, supported by the adults, to persevere with tasks.
- The children clearly enjoy the excellent opportunities provided for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.

5. Provision for learning

The quality of the provision for learning is outstanding.

- The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the pre-school class is outstanding. Among the strengths are the very good working relationships between the staff and the children and the caring and consistent approach adopted by all of the staff in engaging the children in purposeful play. The staff know the children very well and work very effectively as a team to ensure that the individual needs of all the children are met.
- The high quality of the play activities and resources and the layout of the play areas, both indoors and outdoors, ensure that the children experience outstanding opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- All of the staff are very skilful in their interactions with the children; every opportunity is exploited to promote language and learning.
- The staff give good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The staff, supported by funding from local businesses, have been developing the extensive outdoor play area. The children clearly enjoy, and benefit from, the wide range of activities and experiences on offer throughout the year.
- The staff have developed an appropriate method of planning which outlines variety, challenge and progression in the programme. Their reflective evaluations are based on the children's responses and are used effectively to inform future learning and to develop helpful guidance for planning cross-curricular activities.
- The staff communicate, both formally and informally, on a regular basis with the parents. Many different methods, including photographs and individual scrapbooks, are employed to help parents be aware of their child's progress and achievements across the year.

6. Leadership and management

The quality of leadership and management is outstanding.

- The enthusiastic teacher is an excellent role model for the classroom assistants with whom she works closely; they have developed a shared understanding of the aims of the pre-school curriculum. Their hard work and commitment to the well being and development of the children contributes to the overall effectiveness of the pre-school class.
- The senior management team have ensured that the process of self-evaluation is well embedded in the everyday work of the pre-school staff. The staff make insightful evaluations of their practice which have resulted in the development of appropriate action plans. They are able to show the incremental improvements they have made in various aspects of their work and demonstrate that this process continues to enhance the overall provision and the children's learning experiences.

- On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the pre-school has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the pre-school class is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The school has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2012

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk

