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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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Area-Based Inspection

**St Maria Goretti Nursery School
Belfast**

March 2009

AREA-BASED INSPECTION - WEST BELFAST AREA 2009: STRATEGIC PLANNING, COHERENCE IN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI), carried out an area-based inspection in St Maria Goretti Nursery School, Belfast during March 2009.

The strengths and areas for improvement were identified as follows.

Strengths include:

- the very good range of activities which provide a broad and balanced curriculum in preparation for transition to primary education, including the development of language and literacy, mathematical language and an appreciation of the area the “World Around Us”;
- the very good pastoral links with parents and the wider community to enhance and broaden the learning experiences for the children, including visitors to the nursery school and regular visits to local venues of interest;
- the very good pastoral provision for the children in the nursery school;
- the very good arrangements in place for transition at the beginning and end of the pre-school year, the comprehensive information provided for new parents, and the very good quality of the pastoral and educational information transferred to the primary schools the children attend;
- the very good leadership of the nursery school Principal, ably assisted by the hard-working and dedicated staff in meeting the needs of the children within the local community; and
- the recently revised observation and assessment arrangements which provide appropriate information for the development of individual pupil profiles.

The area for improvement is the need to:

- further develop the long-term planning to identify the learning to be promoted and to demonstrate progression through all the pre-school curricular areas.

The overall composite report for the area-based inspection raises some important recurring areas for improvement. While these are not applicable in all the individual organisations, they are nevertheless important to address across the West Belfast area.

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