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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 an Inspection**

**Belmont Nursery School**  
**Londonderry**

**Inspected: October 2009**

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON BELMONT NURSERY SCHOOL,  
LONDONDERRY (211-6345)**

**1. Details of Children**

<b>Number of children:</b>	<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Class 2</b>
Attending full-time	27	0
Attending part-time	26	23
Under 3 years of age*	0	3
With statement of special educational needs	1	0
Without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	1	3
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	2	1
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	3	2
With English as an additional language	0	0

\* On 1 July.

\*\* The stages refer to those set out in the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

Percentage qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 or 2.	15.8%
Average attendance for the previous year.	84%

**2. Duration of Sessions**

<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time: am</b>	<b>Part-time: pm</b>
4½ hours	2½ hours	2½ hours

**3. Details of Staff**

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>
Teachers	1	1
Nursery Assistants	0	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	3	1

<b>Number of: ***</b>	
Students	3
Trainees	0

\*\*\* Total placements since September of current year

**4. Parental Questionnaires**

Number issued	76
Percentage returned	63%
Number of written comments	35

**BELMONT NURSERY SCHOOL, LONDONDERRY, BT48 8NF (211-6345)**  
**INSPECTED: 8 OCTOBER 2009**

1. Belmont Nursery School is situated in purpose-built accommodation on the Racecourse Road, Londonderry. The children come mainly from the surrounding area. The nursery operates a mixed pattern of attendance: 27 children attend on a full-time basis and 49 attend on a part-time basis. Since the last inspection in 2003, the Principal has continued in post and there have been several staffing changes including a recently appointed assistant teacher.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the management group and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A majority of the parents (63%) responded to the questionnaire and 35 made additional written comments. The responses from the parents indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of the provision and those who responded appreciate the caring, supportive staff and value the excellent reputation of the nursery within the community. Five management and three staff questionnaires were also completed and the responses were also highly affirmative of all aspects of the work of the nursery. The responses from all of the questionnaires have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and the Board of Governors.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the nursery is outstanding. The staff are caring, demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children, and give close consideration to maintaining positive relationships with the parents to support the children throughout their varying stages of progress and development. The personal, social and emotional development needs of the children are met very effectively by the staff.

4. The nursery has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

5. The staff give very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity and effective policies and programmes are in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles. A number of parents participated in, and supported the staff, in the organisation of the snack routine. During this period there was good promotion of learning; for example, the children's awareness of hygiene and safety in the preparation of the food was raised and the children were also encouraged to build new friendships with one another during the activity.

**6. The main strengths within the nursery's educational and pastoral provision are as follows:**

- The staff have created a very attractive, stimulating and rich learning environment, both indoors and outdoors. The children's photographs and work are thoughtfully displayed and numerous interest areas have been created to extend their learning. The nursery has a very positive ethos and relationships at all levels are outstanding. The staff have high expectations of all the children. There are appropriate settling-in arrangements and the warm, supportive atmosphere helps the children grow in independence, confidence and self-esteem.

- The children are well-settled; they respond well to the staff and their behaviour is very good. The children persevere with tasks, respond creatively and are effectively developing their thinking skills and personal capabilities as they participate in stimulating activities which cover all areas of the curriculum.
- The early identification of, and provision for, children in need of additional support in their learning is exemplary. Carefully targeted activities and resources, as outlined in their individual education plans, provide continuous, effective support for the children. The expertise of the assistant teacher, who has a professional qualification in speech and language therapy, enriches significantly the language programme for all the children.
- There is exemplary assessment of, and for learning. The planned programme is well-matched to the needs of the individual children and is reflected in the depth and breadth of the activities provided. The skilful interaction and participation by the staff in the activities extends the children's play and ideas. The nursery's educational programme offers excellent opportunities for learning in all the areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The Principal exudes commitment to high quality nursery education and is an excellent role-model for her staff. She provides outstanding leadership and management skills. She has generated good collaborative working practices and is fully supported by the hard-working staff. The Principal and staff demonstrate a strong commitment to the needs of all the children and to the development of the nursery.
- There are outstanding links developed between the education and health agencies to effectively meet the individual needs of the children and their families in the community. The staff make effective links with the parents through formal and informal meetings to provide advice and guidance about helping the children to develop and progress in their learning. The extended schools' programme also is clearly focused on extending the children's experiences and raising the potential of the parents to support their children. The liaison between the nursery and the local special schools is productive.

7. There is a well-developed culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement. All the staff demonstrate a commitment to their own professional development and avail of the many opportunities offered to them. The staff meet regularly to evaluate the planned programme and the school has a comprehensive development plan which highlights appropriate areas for consultation, review and improvement.

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

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