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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**

**Limavady Nursery School  
Co Londonderry**

**Inspected: October 2009**

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON LIMAVADY NURSERY SCHOOL, CO LONDONDERRY  
(211-6628)**

**1. Details of Children**

<b>Number of children:</b>	<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Class 2</b>
Attending full-time	26	0
Attending part-time	26	26
Under 3 years of age*	0	0
With statement of special educational needs	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	1	1
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	11	3
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.	11%
Average attendance for the previous year.	93%

**2. Duration of Sessions**

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

**3. Details of Staff**

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>
Teachers	2	0
Nursery Assistants	0	1
Qualified Nursery Assistants	1	2

<b>Number of: ***</b>	
Students	2
Volunteer	1

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

**4. Parental Questionnaires**

Number issued	78
Percentage returned	54%
Number of written comments	14

**LIMAVADY NURSERY SCHOOL, CO LONDONDERRY, BT49 0ND (211-6628)  
INSPECTED: 20 OCTOBER 2009**

1. Limavady Nursery School is situated in purpose-built accommodation in a quiet residential and educational area on the outskirts of Limavady. The children come mainly from the surrounding area; 26 children attend on a full-time basis and 52 children attend on a part-time basis.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the governors and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A majority (54%) of the parents responded to the questionnaire and 14 made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire indicated that almost all of the parents regard the nursery very highly and appreciate that the staff have helped the children to settle quickly, that the children are learning through an appropriate range of play activities, and that the nursery school is well thought of in the community. Eight of the staff returned questionnaires, with six written comments. Five of the members of Board of Governors (governors) returned questionnaires and three made written comments. Almost all of the responses from the governors and the staff were positive and indicated a high level of satisfaction with the nursery's work. In particular, they appreciated the sense of team-work that pervades the nursery and the high quality of communication at all levels. All of the responses from the questionnaires have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and the governors.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the nursery is outstanding. The staff work hard to provide a welcoming and caring learning environment for the children. The children's personal, social and emotional needs are developed through the sensitive interaction of the teachers and support staff. The children are well-settled and daily routines are established. Parents are actively encouraged to become involved in the life and work of the nursery.

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 nursery gives outstanding attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, the healthy buffet snack and lunch time routines are used sensitively by staff as learning opportunities to develop the children's social and conversational skills and to develop their confidence in trying new foods. The extensive well-resourced outdoor play area is used regularly to provide excellent opportunities for the children to develop a wide range of physical skills.

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

- The nursery provides outstanding pastoral care provision for the children. The learning environment is warm, bright and stimulating, and the staff are responsive to the needs of the children as they settle into the routines and rules of the nursery. The children are at ease with the staff and turn to them readily for support during play, and peer friendships are developing.
- The nursery's programme is well-planned and provides a broad and balanced curriculum for the children. The children are responsive and well-motivated; they sustain periods of concentrated play. Particular strengths of the programme include the attention given to the promotion of literacy and language, early mathematical ideas and the development of physical skills.

- The quality of the staff's interaction and involvement with the children is outstanding. The staff promote the development of language through the use of effective questioning to engage the children in purposeful discussion and to develop their thinking.
- The staff have worked hard to promote and maintain links with parents and the local community. Regular newsletters and organised workshops encourage parents to support their children's learning. There are particular strengths in the nursery's links with the local primary schools and the pre-school unit of a local special school; transition arrangements are regularly evaluated and the outcomes are used to inform further improvements.
- The nursery has outstanding procedures for self-evaluation leading to improvement; strategies for consultation with key members of the nursery community are well-developed and appropriately focused to provide information which is used effectively to inform future developments.
- The Principal is hard-working and committed; she effectively manages the developments of the nursery and has a strategic vision for the future needs of the children. The Principal is ably supported by a dedicated assistant teacher and effective team of support staff. The governors are supportive of the Principal and the staff, and there is a strong sense of team-spirit throughout the nursery.

7. The nursery school has a comprehensive school development plan with appropriate priorities identified for improvement. The Principal, staff and governors work together to develop detailed action plans and there is evidence of a clear focus on improvements in the quality of teaching and learning. During the inspection, there was evidence that the actions were having a positive impact in the best interests of the children.

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

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