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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**

**Lisnagelvin Nursery School  
Londonderry**

**Inspected: November 2009**

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON LISNAGEVLIN NURSERY SCHOOL, LONDONDERRY

### 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	27	26
Under 3 years of age*	0	2
With statement of special educational needs	1	1
Without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	7	9
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	0	4
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	7	5
With English as an additional language	0	5

\* 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.	17.5%
Average attendance for the previous year.	90%

### 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	2	0
Nursery Assistants	4	2
Qualified Nursery Assistants	4	2

<b>Number of: ***</b>	
Students	4
Trainees	0

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

### 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued	80
Percentage returned	66%
Number of written comments	22

**LISNAGELVIN NURSERY SCHOOL, LONDONDERRY, BT47 5QZ (211-6233)**  
**INSPECTED: 4 NOVEMBER 2009**

1. Lisnagelvin Nursery School is situated in purpose-built accommodation on Richill Park, Londonderry. The children come mainly from the surrounding area. The school operates a mixed pattern of attendance: 27 children attend on a full-time basis and 53 attend on a part-time basis. Since the last inspection in 2003 a new principal has been appointed in September 2009 and almost all of the remaining staff are in post from the last inspection.

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 (66%) responded to the questionnaire and 22 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, helpful staff and value the excellent reputation of the nursery within the community. The few matters raised were shared with the Principal and the governors. Three management and eight 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 (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 take particular account of support for children with additional needs. The personal, social and emotional development needs of the children are met very effectively by the staff.

4. The nursery has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department; steps are in hand to provide the updated training for a member of senior management team.

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. The children are encouraged to taste a wide range of foods at the snack time and enjoy energetic play in the outdoor area.

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

- The nursery has a very positive ethos and relationships at all levels are outstanding. The staff have high expectations of all the children. There is an outstanding indoor and outdoor learning environment which has developed effectively over many years; the excellent quality of the resources and the activities provided for the children stimulate their imagination and excite them to learn.
- The children are well-settled; they respond willingly to the staff and their behaviour is very good. They are motivated to engage with the staff during the activities and persevere with tasks, respond creatively and are developing effectively their thinking skills and personal capabilities.

- The early identification of, and provision for, children in need of additional support in their learning is outstanding. There is effective collaboration of all the staff throughout the day. The individual needs of the children are identified and met promptly through the skilful interaction and involvement of the staff.
- The planned programme is comprehensive and provides detailed guidance for the day-to-day learning for the children. All the staff are aware of the learning to be promoted from the wide range of activities provided and skilfully interact with the children to extend the children's learning and development. The assessment of the children's progress and development is well-organised and provides clear information for the parents and is made available to them throughout the year. The nursery's educational programme offers outstanding opportunities for learning in all the areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The Principal is recently appointed and in a short time has effectively managed the teamwork among the staff and established outstanding relationships with the parents. She has generated good collaborative working practices and is fully supported by the skilful assistant teacher and 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 governors, the staff and agencies to meet effectively 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.

7. There is a well-established culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement. All the staff demonstrate a commitment to their own professional development and avail of courses offered to them. The staff meet fortnightly to evaluate the children's progress and design the planned programme for the children. The school is in the process of reviewing the school development plan which highlights appropriate areas for 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 school has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- The traffic arrangements for parking and drop-off for the children are a potential risk because of the volume of traffic at peak hours.

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