



*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

Report of an Inspection

**Naíscoil Colmcille an Charraig Mhór
Omagh**

Inspected: February 2009

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Name of pre-school centre:	Naíscoil Colmcille an Charraig Mhór
Address:	c/o St Columbkille's Primary School 2 Rockstown Road Carrickmore OMAGH Co Tyrone BT79 9BE
Management Type:	Voluntary

Date of inspection:	17 February 2009
Date of previous inspection:	9 October 2002

1. Details of Children

Total number of children:	am session	pm session
• attending the pre-school centre	10	-
• in their immediate pre-school year	6	-
• funded by Department of Education (DE)	6	-
• qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 & 2	0	-
• with a statement of special educational needs	0	-
• without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	0	-
• with English as an additional language	0	-
• who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school	0	-
Attendance:		
• attendance* of funded children for the previous school year	92%	-

* Calculated from the date when the intake was complete

2. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff, including leader	0	1
Staff holding recognised childcare qualifications	0	1
New appointments within previous 12 months	0	0

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	-	190

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued to parents:	6
Percentage returned:	100%
Number of written comments:	3

**NAÍScoil COLMCILLE AN CHARRAIG MHÓR, OMAGH, CO TYRONE,
BT79 9BE (2BB-0345)**

1. Naíscoil Colmcille an Charraig Mhór is accommodated in a purpose-built mobile in the grounds of St Columbkille's Primary School. The children attending the naíscoil come from the surrounding rural areas. The leader has remained in post since the last inspection in 2002 and contributed significantly to the development of the provision. The enrolment trends fluctuate year on year; currently, ten children attend the naíscoil, four of whom are in their penultimate pre-school year. The naíscoil has a small, secure outdoor play area which is shared with the nursery unit.

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. All parents responded to the questionnaire and three 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 and professional staff. Seven management and two staff questionnaires were completed and the responses were highly affirmative of all aspects of the work of the naíscoil. The responses from all of the questionnaires have been taken into account as part of the inspection and were shared with the staff and management group.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is good. The staff are caring and work well as a team; they demonstrate a strong commitment to the welfare of the children.

4. The naíscoil has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. The naíscoil adheres to the policies and procedures of the primary school. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department, but the following minor area needs to be addressed:

- to develop and adhere to a written code of conduct for the staff in their day-to-day work with the children.

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.

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

- The learning environment is bright and attractive and excellent use is made of the space to provide a wide range of well-resourced activities. In addition, good use is made of the children's own work, displays and interest areas to create a stimulating learning environment.
- Through self-evaluation, including the use of appropriate questionnaires to audit the needs of the parents, the staff have continued to develop productive working relationships in order to improve the Irish language and educational provision. The effective use of topic books, monthly newsletters and regular meetings are means by which the staff share information about the curriculum, the Irish language and the work of the naíscoil.

- The relationships and interactions between the staff and the children are of a high quality. The staff encourage the children to share and to be well-behaved and they implement effectively the naíscoil’s behaviour management policy. As a result the children are well-settled and co-operate readily with the staff.
- The leader is a good role-model through her use of the Irish language and sets a high standard for all aspects of the naíscoil’s work; she asks open-ended questions to sustain the children’s interest in their chosen activities. The staff demonstrate a skilful approach in promoting language and learning naturally through the play activities and various routines and many of the children respond appropriately to the staff and indicate a good understanding of the Irish language.
- The staff have worked hard to develop an appropriate planned programme and take account of the children’s needs and interests. The use of appropriate themes provides variety in the children’s learning throughout the year. The children display a sense of enjoyment in learning and they are achieving well.
- Most of the children transfer to the Irish-medium unit within the primary school; valuable links have been established between the naíscoil and the adjoining primary school. The staff of the naíscoil liaise with the year 1 teacher of the Irish-medium unit in order to ensure that the children make a smooth transition.

7. The staff have made effective use of self-evaluation to identify, prioritise and implement improvement, particularly in planning for and assessment of learning. The early years specialist (EYS) and the staff work effectively as a team. The EYS has made a very good contribution to the overall development of the provision in the naíscoil. The support provided is well focused, in particular, the appropriate areas identified for improvement and the associated action-planning to bring this about.

8. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this naíscoil is very good. The naíscoil is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

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