



*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

Railway Street Nursery School Armagh

Inspected: May 2009

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON RAILWAY STREET NURSERY SCHOOL

1. Details of Children

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

* 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. | 83% |

2. Duration of Sessions

| Full-time | Part-time: am | Part-time: pm |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 4½ hours | - | - |

3. Details of Staff

| Number of: | Full-Time | Part-Time |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Teachers | 1 | 0 |
| Nursery Assistants | 0 | 0 |
| Qualified Nursery Assistants | 3 | 0 |

| Number of: *** | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Students | 5 |
| Trainees | 0 |

*** Total placements since September of current year

4. Parental Questionnaires (to be completed by Inspection Services Branch)

| | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Number issued | 26 |
| Percentage returned | 57.7% |
| Number of written comments | 9 |

RAILWAY STREET NURSERY SCHOOL, ARMAGH, BT61 7HP (511-0017)
INSPECTED: 28 MAY 2009

1. The nursery school is situated in the centre of Armagh City. The children come from a wide catchment area. Since the last inspection there have been several leadership changes. After a period of absence, the Principal returned to her full-time position in September 2008.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A majority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and nine made additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaire indicate that almost all the parents regard the nursery very highly. A small number raised concerns about particular aspects of the provision.

The responses from the Board of Governors were positive and indicated a high level of satisfaction with the nursery provision. All of the responses have been taken into account as part of the inspection and the comments made have been shared with the Principal and the governors.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the nursery is very good. Among the strengths are the caring, inclusive and supportive ethos within the nursery and the positive working relationships at all levels.

4. The school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education but the following minor area needs to be addressed:

- the intimate care procedures for changing children should be shared with the parents.

5. The nursery gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, through the provision of healthy snacks and the development of a stimulating and progressively challenging outdoor play area.

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

- The staff interact with the children in a caring and supportive manner. The quality of their interactions is consistently very good.
- There are very good learning opportunities in most aspects of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's creative and personal, social and emotional development are particular strengths.
- The very good links established with the parents and the steps taken to encourage them to play an active role in the education of their child and the life of the nursery.
- The good methods of assessment developed by the staff and the very good efforts to address the learning difficulties experienced by some of the children.

- The very effective leadership provided by the Principal in the short period since her return to work and the sense of team-spirit among the hard-working and dedicated staff who are fully committed to the future development of the nursery.

7. The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following are the most important areas that need attention.

- The staff need to develop aspects of the written planning to ensure the children's interests and needs are built upon and that there is progression in the activities throughout the year.
- To develop aspects of the organisation of the latter part of the day to ensure that a broader range of activities is available for the children.

8. The nursery has a comprehensive school development plan with appropriate targets for improvement. The staff have not yet embarked on the formal process of self-evaluation.

9. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the nursery school is good. The nursery has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the nursery has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the nursery school's progress on the areas for improvement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The main entrance to the nursery school is very close to a busy main road and presents a risk. The staff should consider using an alternative door as the main point of entrance and exit to the nursery school.

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