

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Trench Road Nursery School,  
Londonderry

Report of an Inspection  
in November 2012

## CONTENTS

Section		Page
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Inspection methods and evidence base	1
3.	Overall finding of the inspection	1
4.	Children's achievements	1
5.	Provision for learning	2
6.	Leadership and management	2

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON TRENCH ROAD NURSERY SCHOOL

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Number of children:</b>	<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Class 2</b>
Attending full-time	26	26
Attending part-time	0	0
Under 3 years of age*	0	0
With statement of special educational needs	0	0
Without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	3	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	1	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	8	0
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.	42%
Average attendance for the previous year.	85%

### 2. Duration of Sessions

<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time: am</b>	<b>Part-time: pm</b>
4 ½ hours	-	-

### 3. Details of Staff

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>
Teachers	2	0
Nursery Assistants (qualified)	2	0
Nursery Assistants (non-qualified)	0	0

<b>Number of: ***</b>	
Students	1
Trainees	0

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

### 4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued	52
Percentage returned	64%
Number of written comments	15

## 1. Introduction

Trench Road Nursery School is situated on a spacious site on Trench Road in Derry city. It offers 52 full-time places. An extensive outdoor play area has been developed since the last inspection

## 2. Inspection methods and evidence base

The inspection evaluations are based on evidence gained from in-class observations and from a range of documentation provided by the nursery school.

The views of the parents, staff, and management group were sought through a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Fifty-two questionnaires were issued to the parents and thirty three were returned with fifteen additional written comments. Members of the staff and the Board of Governors also returned the questionnaires with written comments. All of the returns from the questionnaires indicated high levels of satisfaction with the work of the nursery school. In particular the parents valued the hardworking and approachable staff and the caring, happy learning environment. The reporting inspector shared the responses from the questionnaires with the staff and the members of the board of governors who attended the oral report back.

## 3. Overall finding of the inspection

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.

Summary of key findings

Children's Achievements Quality of Provision Leadership and management	Outstanding Outstanding Outstanding
--	---

## KEY FINDINGS OF THE INSPECTION

### 4. Children's Achievements

**The quality of the children's achievements is outstanding.**

- The children are very well-settled for the time of year and are developing positive attitudes to their learning.
- During the inspection, almost all of the children engaged in sustained purposeful play; they showed high levels of concentration and independence and they co-operated well with one another and with the adults.
- Throughout the session, the children were observed using and enjoying a wide range of easily accessible books which suited well their interests and linked appropriately to the play activities.
- As the children engage in play, they use their everyday language to express mathematical concepts.

## **5. Provision for Learning**

**The quality of the provision for learning is outstanding.**

- The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the nursery school is outstanding. This is evidenced by the caring, inclusive ethos, the exemplary behaviour of the children and the excellent working relationships at all levels.
- The staff work hard to provide a bright, stimulating learning indoor and outdoor environments for the children.
- The open plan arrangement, which encompasses both playrooms and large foyer area, is well-managed by the staff and supports effectively the excellent development of all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The staff interactions with the children are consistently of a high quality.
- The staff have developed a rigorous approach to planning, to observing the children at play and to recording their responses. The staff use the children's responses effectively to inform future planning.
- The children with special educational needs are identified early and supported well in their learning.
- The children are provided with a healthy snack and have regular access to drinking water. The staff promote well the healthy lunch policy.
- The recently developed, well-planned outdoor play area provides excellent opportunities for physical activity and learning across all areas of the curriculum throughout the school year.

## **6. Leadership and Management**

**The quality of leadership and management is outstanding.**

- The staff have developed a very effective culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement. In particular, the extensive evaluation of how boys learn and the subsequent improvements made to the provision, have impacted greatly on all the children's learning.
- The nursery school has developed very good links with parents including informative newsletters, curriculum evenings and lending libraries which help to involve the parents in their children's learning.
- On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the nursery school has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

## CONCLUSION

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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2013

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: [www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk)

