

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

# Kilskeery Independent Christian School, Omagh, County Tyrone

DE Ref No IS30

## Report of a Re-registration Inspection Visit in December 2022



Providing Inspection services for:  
Department of Education  
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## Contents

Context.....	2
Focus of the Re-registration Inspection Visit .....	2
Outcomes for learners.....	3
Provision for learning.....	3
Child Protection and Safeguarding.....	4
Accommodation, equipment and resources, including health and safety .....	4
Summary of Key Findings .....	4
Conclusion .....	5

## Context

Kilskeery Independent Christian School is situated near the village of Trillick in County Tyrone. The school is administered by the Session and Management Committee of Kilskeery Free Presbyterian Church and is under the authority of the Presbytery Education Board of the Free Presbyterian Church. It has been providing education in this area for 44 years. The school aims to provide pupils with a Christian education with a focus on the teaching of scripture. The school has charitable status and is funded through the receipt of donations and gifts.

The school has a wide catchment area, extending from Ballinamallard to Omagh. Over the last four years, enrolment has remained low. There are broadly two composite classes, one class for primary pupils and the other for post-primary pupils. A small number of pupils receive 'one-to-one' teaching and support, in addition to joining the composite classes. A minority of the pupils have been identified as having special educational needs. No pupils have a statement of educational need and there are no newcomer pupils attending the school.

Kilskeery Independent School	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Enrolment	13	11	10	10
No. of pupils of primary school age	6	6	5	5
No. of pupils of post-primary school age	7	5	5	5
% Attendance for pupils of primary school age	95.5	96.8	93.6	94.5
% Attendance for pupils of post-primary school age	96.0	95.8	91.0	93.8
FSME Percentage**	*	*	*	*
No. of pupils on the register of special educational needs	*	*	*	*

Source: data as held by the school.

\* fewer than 5

\*\* The term 'FSME Percentage' refers to the percentage of pupils with free school meals entitlement.

## Focus of the Re-registration Inspection Visit

During the re-registration inspection visit, the inspectors focused on the extent to which the:

- school provides efficient and suitable instruction (referred to in this report as 'provision') that is matched to the age, gender and ability of the pupils;
- arrangements for child protection and safeguarding (including the vetting arrangements for staff) are appropriate, in place and being implemented;
- accommodation is suitable for a school and is appropriate for the age, gender and numbers of pupils attending the school;

- equipment and resources are sufficient, safe and appropriate, including those related to fire safety; and
- pupils get access to education on a full-time basis, with reference to pupil attendance.

It should be noted that independent schools are not obliged to follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum and may employ teachers who do not hold teaching qualifications recognised by the Department of Education. Further details of the nature of the curriculum offered and the teaching qualifications held by the staff are included in this report. Inspectors observed teaching and learning, scrutinised documentation and the pupils' written work and held discussions with the pupils while they were in their lessons, and with the teachers and staff with specific responsibilities.

## Outcomes for learners

Throughout the school, there are well embedded routines which allow the pupils to work well independently and with confidence. The standard of presentation in their books is very good and the samples of work viewed are matched well to the needs of the pupils. Across the key stages (KS), the pupils make steady progress. The pupils in key stage 4 and post-16 study are entered for a good range of appropriate GCSE and A-level (or equivalent) qualifications. Overall, they attain very good outcomes in public examinations, which enable them to transition appropriately.

## Provision for learning

The school provides efficient and suitable instruction which meets the needs of all of the pupils.

The school has a complement of five teachers; all of whom have qualified teacher status and a Diploma in Christian Education. A small number of staff have also obtained additional post-graduate qualifications, such as degrees at masters level, which support the teaching of science-related courses and enhance the provision for pupils who have special educational needs and require additional learning support.

There are good working relationships between the teachers and pupils, and there are positive interactions between older and younger pupils. Teachers use effective questioning strategies to develop pupils' thinking skills and make connections to prior learning. The lessons observed were effective in meeting pupils' individual needs and were characterised by supportive working relationships and clear instruction. The learning environments enable pupils to engage well in individual activities which are matched to their needs, interests and the school's ethos. In a very small number of lessons, some aspects of the learning were overly directed by the teacher.

The school provides individualised support programmes and access arrangements for pupils who require additional support with aspects of their learning. The staff monitor and review the progress of pupils through the effective use of Individual Education Plans.

At KS 1 and KS 2, the curriculum provides a suitably broad blend of STEM-related subjects, humanities, the arts and physical education. At KS 4, it is sufficiently balanced, flexible to meet the needs and aspirations of the pupils and is reviewed to enable the learners to progress to the next stage of their education. The use of technology-enhanced learning and collaborative arrangements with other Independent Christian Schools, are supporting pupils to get access to additional GCSE and A-level qualifications which could not be delivered solely by the school staff.

The pupils aged between four and five years old attend the school for four hours each day, while the remaining pupils attend for six and a half hours each day.

## Child Protection and Safeguarding

Based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection visit, there are appropriate arrangements in place for child protection and safeguarding of pupils. The school's child protection policy is guided by the [Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster Child Protection Guidelines](#). The designated teacher and staff receive ongoing training and support for safeguarding issues and evidence was provided by the school that Access NI vetting has been carried out for all members of staff.

## Accommodation, equipment and resources, including health and safety

The accommodation is suitable for a school and is appropriate for the age, gender and numbers of pupils attending the school. The range of equipment and resources are sufficient, safe and appropriate and the school gives appropriate priority to maintaining a safe learning environment. The school's health and safety policy details the arrangements for fire safety and maintenance of equipment, building security, welfare arrangements around heating and ventilation and aspects of building repair.

## Summary of Key Findings

- Kilskeery Independent Christian School provides efficient and suitable instruction that is matched to the age, gender and ability of the pupils (Education and Libraries Order (NI) 1986 Part IV 39 (1) c).
- Based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection visit, there are appropriate arrangements for child protection and safeguarding of pupils in place.
- The accommodation is suitable for a school and is appropriate for the age, gender and numbers of pupils attending the school.
- The equipment and resources are sufficient, safe and appropriate, including those related to fire safety.

## Conclusion

On receipt of this report, and considering all other evidence available, the Department of Education has concluded that the school will continue to be registered to provide education.

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