



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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*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 a Short Inspection**

**Altishane Primary School  
Dunamanagh, Strabane**

**Inspected: March 2009**

## BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Altishane Primary**  
**Dunamanagh, Strabane**  
ii. **School Reference Number: 203-2722**
- iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 02.03.09**  
iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

<b>School Year</b>	<b>2004/05</b>	<b>2005/06</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>2007/08</b>	<b>2008/09</b>
Year 1 Intake	5	4	6	6	5
<b>Enrolments</b>					
Primary	41	39	39	41	38
Reception	2	3	1	0	0
Nursery Class/Classes	0	0	0	0	0
Special Unit	0	0	0	0	0

The enrolment for the current year is the figure on the day of notification of inspection. For previous years it is the figure in the annual return to the Department of Education.

The calculations at C and D should be based on the total of the primary and reception enrolments only.

- |    |   |       |
|----|---|-------|
| C. | Average Attendance for the Previous School Year<br>(expressed as a percentage): | 96.6% |
|----|---|-------|

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit
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- |    |       |   |          |              |   |
|----|-------|---|----------|--------------|---|
| D. | i.    | Number of Teachers<br>(including the principal and part-time teachers):<br>(Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours) | 2        | 0            | 0 |
|    | ii.   | PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio):  | 19       | NI PTR: 20.8 |   |
|    | iii.  | Average Class Size:   | 19       |              |   |
|    | iv.   | Class Size (Range):   | 17 to 21 |              |   |
|    | v.    | Ancillary Support:<br>Number of Hours <b>Per Week</b> :   |          |              |   |
|    |       | i. Clerical support:  |          | 12           |   |
|    |       | ii. Official Making A Good<br>Start Support:  |          | 20           |   |
|    |       | iii. Additional hours of other<br>classroom assistant support:  |          | 15           |   |
|    | vi.   | Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs:  |          | 2.63%        |   |
|    | vii.  | Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register:   |          | 13%          |   |
|    | viii. | Number of children who are <b>not</b> of statutory school age:  |          | 0            |   |
|    | ix.   | Percentage of children entitled to free school meals:   |          | 13%          |   |

**ALTISHANE PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNAMANAGH, STRABANE, CO TYRONE,  
BT82 0RE (203-2722)**

Altishane Primary School is a small rural school located approximately four miles from Dunamanagh in County Tyrone. Almost all of the children come from the immediate area. The current enrolment is 38 pupils. The school has indentified approximately 13% of the children who require additional support with aspects of their learning. Thirteen percent of the children are entitled to free school meals.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection, as well as meetings with parents and the children from year 7.

Twenty-five families were issued with questionnaires; approximately 50% were returned to the Department of Education (DE) with six containing additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaires were very positive and highlighted the dedication of the teaching and support staff, the happy and well settled children, the individual support provided for them and the very effective communication between the school and the parents.

All of the teachers completed the online questionnaire and provided additional written comments. The responses from the teachers were highly affirmative of the work of the school. The inspectors met with a small group of parents who spoke positively about the hard work of the teaching and non-teaching staff in providing a very caring learning environment for the children.

The children in year 7 talked enthusiastically about the many aspects of school life which they enjoy and reported that they feel safe and know what to do in the event of a concern. The comments made through the questionnaires have been discussed with the Principal and the Board of Governors (governors).

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the school is excellent. The school has procedures in place which implement fully the relevant DE circulars. The governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures and have had the opportunity to contribute to a range of effective policies which guide the work of the school. Among the strengths are:

- the excellent relationships with parents and the local community in supporting the work of the school;
- the caring and supportive school ethos, underpinned by a very effective positive behaviour policy;
- the exemplary behaviour of the children;
- the pupils' participation in a wide range of extra-curricular activities, competitions and events to enhance their learning experiences; and
- the attractive and stimulating learning environment throughout the school which is used to support learning and to celebrate the pupils' achievements.

The school gives excellent attention to promoting health and well-being, including opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the excellent leadership provided by the Principal who promotes a strong sense of collegiality amongst the dedicated teaching, learning support and non-teaching staff;
- the excellent quality of the planning at all levels which is informed by rigorous self-evaluation in order to promote improvement;
- the very good use made of the local area to support learning and promote a strong sense of place and identity;
- the high quality of the teaching observed which was consistently very good and on occasions excellent;
- the very good or excellent standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy which are in line with their ability; and
- the opportunities provided for the children to use a wide range of resources in information and communication technology, both in school and at home, to support them in their learning, and promote independence and creativity.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is outstanding: the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The school has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and staff.

## **APPENDIX**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- The front and back doors to the main building do not have a secure access system. This needs to be addressed in the interests of the children's safety.
- The perimeter fence at the front of the school is too low and does not provide adequate security for the children.

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