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*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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

Ampertaine Primary School
Upperlands, Maghera

Inspected: September 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Ampertaine Primary** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 28.09.09**
Upperlands, Maghera
 ii. **School Reference Number: 301-2234** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	11	14	16	17	19
Enrolments					
Primary	78	80	86	89	100
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Special Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Irish Medium 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
 (expressed as a percentage): 95%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit	Irish Medium Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers): 5 0 0 0
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 20 NI PTR: 20.4
- iii. Average Class Size: 20
- iv. Class Size (Range): 14 to 27
- v. Ancillary Support:
 Number of Hours **Per Week**:
 i. Clerical support: 12
 ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support: 20
 iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: 30
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 1%
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 21%
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 12%
- x. Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09
 who attained level 4 and above at English and mathematics: **English** **Mathematics**
72.7% 100%

**AMPERTAINE PRIMARY SCHOOL, UPPERLANDS, MAGHERA,
CO LONDONDERRY, BT46 5SB (301-2234)**

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Ampertaine Primary School is situated in the rural townland of Upperlands, approximately three miles north of Maghera. The enrolment has increased over recent years and is currently 100. At the time of the inspection, approximately 12% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 21% of the children were identified as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning.

FOCUS

The inspection focused on:

- the children's achievements and standards in literacy and numeracy;
- the quality of provision for learning; and
- the quality of leadership and management.

THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS, GOVERNORS AND CHILDREN

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 82 questionnaires issued to the parents, 39 (47%) were returned to Department of Education (DE), including 20 which contained an additional written comment. Almost all of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life, highlighting in particular the high quality of education and care; the enthusiastic and approachable staff; and the high regard with which the school is held in the local community. The very few issues raised were discussed with the Principal. The teachers' responses were all very positive.

Representatives from the Board of Governors (governors) met with a member of the inspection team and expressed their appreciation for the dedication and commitment of the teachers and the quality of the leadership provided by the Principal.

The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 children; they talked enthusiastically about their experiences at school, the opportunities to use information and communication technology and the rewards for their good behaviour. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety or well-being.

PASTORAL CARE

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. Among the strengths are: the very good working relationships at all levels which foster an inclusive and supportive ethos; the extent to which the school encourages the parents to be involved actively in their children's learning; and the links with the local and wider community. The children displayed excellent behaviour. The classroom assistants contribute significantly to supporting the children's well-being and their learning.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school has excellent arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect fully the guidance in the relevant DE circulars. The governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures.

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity through, for example, the provision of additional playground resources and the introduction of healthy break initiatives, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the happy and inclusive ethos which is clearly evident in every aspect of school life;
- the overall quality of the teaching, which was good or very good in almost all of the lessons;
- the improving trend in the standards achieved by the children in mathematics and, to a lesser degree, English;
- the clear focus within the school development plan on the agreed strategies to be adopted, in order to raise the standards achieved by the children, and the effective use of assessment data to set appropriate targets for improvement;
- the effective procedures for self-evaluation which are implemented consistently across the school; and
- the quality of the leadership and management provided by the Principal and the teachers with responsibilities.

An area for improvement is:

- the need to ensure that the work is matched more appropriately to the needs and abilities of all of the children.

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

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

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