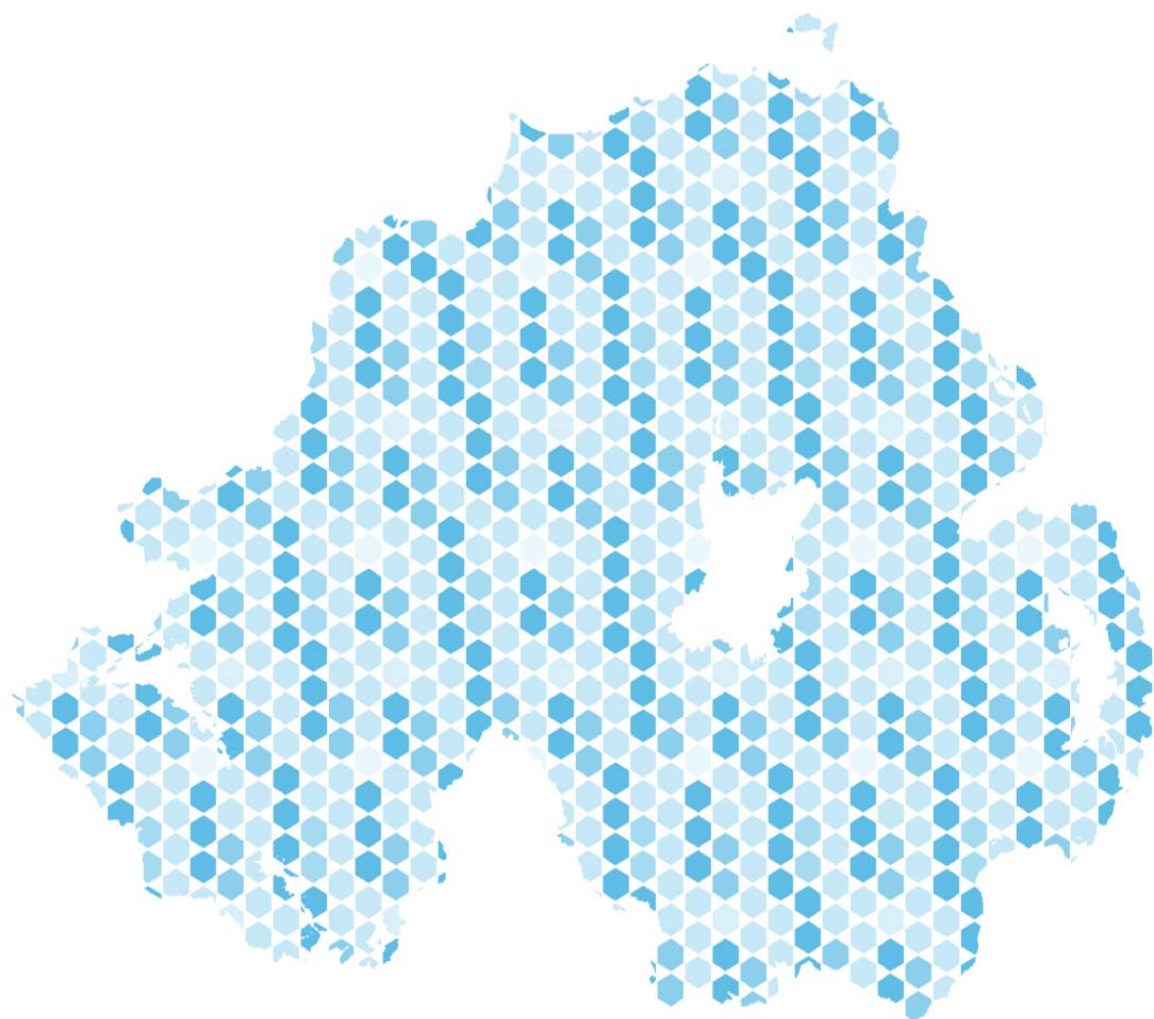


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Anahorish Primary School,
Toomebridge, Co Antrim

Report of an Inspection
in January 2010

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 |

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Anahorish Primary Toomebridge** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 18/01/10**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 303-2257** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

| School Year | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year 1 Intake | 28 | 23 | 20 | 24 | 27 |
| Enrolments | | | | | |
| Primary | 194 | 197 | 191 | 177 | 178 |
| 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): 95.6% **NI Avg Att: 94.9%**

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Primary & Reception | Nursery Unit | Special Unit | Irish Medium Unit |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|

- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers): 8 0 0 0
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)

- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 22.25 NI PTR: 20.4

- iii. Average Class Size: 25

- iv. Class Size (Range): 21 to 29

- v. Ancillary Support:
 Number of Hours **Per Week:**
- | | |
|---|------|
| i. Clerical support: | 6.75 |
| ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support: | 40 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 60 |

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 1.68%

- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 16.85%

- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 7.3%

- x. Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09 who attained level 4 and above in English and mathematics: **English 89%** **Mathematics 89%**

ANAHORISH PRIMARY SCHOOL, TOOMEBRIDGE, CO ANTRIM, BT41 3SS (303-2257)

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Anahorish Primary School is a rural school situated two miles from the town of Toomebridge. Although the enrolment has declined over recent years it is currently at its maximum permitted number. At the time of the inspection, approximately 7% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 17% 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 120 questionnaires issued to the parents, 30% were returned to Inspection Services Branch, including eleven which contained an additional written comment. Almost all of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated high levels of satisfaction, highlighting in particular: the approachable staff; the development of the children's confidence; and the high quality of care for the children. The very few matters raised were discussed with the Principal and with representatives of the Board of Governors (Governors). The teachers' responses were all very positive.

Representatives of the Governors met with the inspection team and expressed their appreciation for the work of the enthusiastic 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, including the friendly and helpful teachers and the emphasis on learning being fun. 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 outstanding. Among the strengths are: the positive and supportive working relationships at all levels; the excellent behaviour of the children; and the inclusive ethos throughout the school.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity through, for example, the role of the School Council in taking forward the school's healthy eating programme and the very good link with the dietician, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the outstanding quality of the pastoral care, and the strong sense of community within the school;
- the high levels of engagement and motivation displayed by the children;
- the overall quality of the teaching, which was always good, with the majority of the lessons observed being very good or outstanding;
- the very good standards achieved by the children in English and mathematics;
- the excellent analysis of a wide range of quantitative data to inform whole-school planning; and
- the very good quality of the leadership and management provided by the Principal, well-supported by the subject co-ordinators.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The security of the classrooms, corridors and access areas around the school needs to be reviewed as a priority.

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