

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ballycastle Integrated Primary
School and Nursery Unit

Report of an Inspection
in May 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, the Inspectorate 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:** Ballycastle Integrated Primary iii. **Date of Inspection:** W/B 24.05.2010
 ii. **School Reference Number:** 305-3333 iv. **Nature of Inspection:** Short

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	6	14	16	16	17
Enrolments					
Primary	72	100	101	102	112
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Unit	0	0	24	27	26
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):

92.6%

NI Avg Att: 94.9%

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): 8 1 0 0
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)

- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 14 NI PTR: 20.4

- iii. Average Class Size: 18.6

- iv. Class Size (Range): 17 to 22

- v. Ancillary Support:

Number of Hours Per Week:	i. Clerical support:	20
	ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support:	60
	iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support:	101.25

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 4%

- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 42%

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

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 27%

- 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** 80% **Mathematics** 80%

**BALLYCASTLE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYCASTLE, CO ANTRIM,
BT54 6BJ (305-3333)**

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Ballycastle Integrated Primary School is a controlled integrated school situated close to the centre of the town. Most of the children come from the town; a small number travel from the surrounding rural area by car or bus. The enrolment has increased in recent years and currently stands at 112. At the time of the inspection, approximately 27% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 42% of the children were identified as having difficulty with aspects of their learning.

The school has a single nursery unit attached to it; enrolment at the unit is currently at its maximum figure. At the time of the inspection, all of the staff working in the nursery unit held temporary positions.

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 school's arrangements for pastoral care, including child protection, and the work of the nursery unit were also evaluated as part of the inspection.

THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS, GOVERNORS AND CHILDREN

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents, the teaching staff and support staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection as well as a meeting with a representative of the Board of Governors (governors) and a group of children from year 6. In the primary school, 102 questionnaires were issued; 24% were returned to Inspection Services Branch and five of these contained additional written comments. In the nursery unit, 26 questionnaires were issued; 33% were returned and three of these contained additional written comments. The responses from the questionnaires indicated that all of the parents appreciate the professional and approachable staff and the care and support provided for their children; they also believe that their children are encouraged to respect and value the views of others. The views expressed in the parental questionnaires were shared with the Principal and the governor.

Eight of the teaching staff and 12 of the support staff responded to the online questionnaires. All of the responses indicated that the staff enjoy working at the school, appreciate the hard work of the Principal and believe that the management promotes the welfare of the staff.

The year 6 children talked very positively about aspects of their learning they enjoy, including the after-school activities. They are aware of what to do if they have any worries or concerns about their safety or well-being.

PASTORAL CARE

The quality of arrangements for pastoral care in the school, including the nursery unit, is very good. Among the strengths are the inclusive and welcoming ethos, the strategies in place to promote positive behaviour and acknowledge and celebrate the children's contributions, the range of after-school activities that support and enhance the children's learning experiences and the very good working relationships at all levels.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school, including the nursery unit, has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by Department of Education.

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, through, for example, the successful Healthy Lifestyle Open Evening and popular gardening and cookery clubs that encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the primary school include:

- the inclusive and welcoming ethos throughout the school;
- the well-behaved children, who are keen to talk about their learning;
- the quality of teaching observed which was always good and, on most occasions, very good;
- the very good provision for special educational needs;
- the well-embedded arrangements for self-evaluation; and
- the very good leadership of the Principal, who is well-supported by all staff.

The area for improvement is the need to:

- raise further the standards the children achieve in literacy and numeracy.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this primary 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 Educational and Training Inspectorate (Inspectorate) will monitor the primary school's progress on the areas for improvement.

THE NURSERY UNIT

The main strengths within the nursery unit's educational and pastoral provision are as follows:

- The nursery unit's programme offers satisfactory opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Much attention is given to developing the children's personal, social and emotional development; as a result, most of the children are confident, demonstrate good levels of independence and listen attentively during story sessions.
- There is a welcoming atmosphere; the staff treat the children with care and respect and implement positive behaviour management strategies effectively. Most of the children co-operate readily with the staff; they are mannerly and regularly engage in purposeful play.
- The playroom is bright, attractive and colourful; good use is made of the children's art work, interest areas and photographs to create a stimulating environment.
- The staff display commitment to the children and the work of the unit; they work together effectively as a team in the best interest of the children.
- The nursery unit is considered an integral part of the primary school; the Principal regularly monitors and evaluates the work in the nursery unit and is committed to providing the best possible standards of education for all of the children.

The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following are the most important areas that need attention:

- The further development of the methods for planning and assessing the children's progress, in order to meet the children's differing needs and guide the staff more effectively in their interactions with the children.
- The review of the organisation of the day in order to ensure that all time is used effectively to promote the children's learning.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in this nursery unit is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in learning and teaching which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively.

The Inspectorate will monitor and report on the unit's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE NURSERY UNIT IN BALLYCASTLE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	26	0
Attending part-time	0	0
Under 3 years of age*	5	0
With statement of special educational needs	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	1	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	1	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.	2%
Average attendance for the previous year.	87.5%

2. Duration of Sessions

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm
4½ hours	-	-

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Teachers	1	0
Nursery Assistants	0	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	1	1

Number of: ***	
Students	1
Trainees	0

*** Total placements since September of current year

4. Parental Questionnaires

Number issued	27
Percentage returned	33.3%
Number of written comments	4

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