



*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Short Inspection**

**Bellaghy Primary School  
Magherafelt**

**Inspected: May 2009**

## BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- |    |     |  |      |   |
|----|-----|--|------|---|
| A. | i.  | <b>School: Bellaghy Primary School<br/>Magherafelt</b> | iii. | <b>Date of Inspection: W/B 25.05.09</b> |
|    | ii. | <b>School Reference Number: 301-2290</b>               | iv.  | <b>Nature of Inspection: Short</b>      |

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	2	6	3	4	8
<b>Enrolments</b>					
Primary	31	31	31	32	37
Reception	0	0	0	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  
(expressed as a percentage):

97%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers  
(including the principal and part-time teachers):  
(Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)

2.2

0

0

- |     |                            |      |              |
|-----|----------------------------|------|--------------|
| ii. | PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): | 16.8 | NI PTR: 20.8 |
|-----|----------------------------|------|--------------|

- iii. Average Class Size: 5

- iv. **Class Size (Range):** 2 to 8

- v. Ancillary Support:

- Number of Hours
- Per Week:**

- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| i.   | Clerical support:                                      | 7 |
| ii.  | Official Making A Good Start Support:                  | 2 |
| iii. | Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 9 |

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 0%

- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 18%

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

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 5.4%

**BELLAGHY PRIMARY SCHOOL, MAGHERAFELT, CO LONDONDERRY,  
BT45 8HZ (301-2290)**

Bellaghy Primary School is situated in the village of Bellaghy, in County Londonderry. The majority of the children come from the village and the surrounding rural area. The enrolment has increased over recent years and is currently 37. Approximately 5% of the children are entitled to receive free school meals. The school has identified 18% of the children as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning.

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 23 questionnaires issued to the parents, 70% were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including 12 which contained additional written comments. The inspection team also met separately with a parent and a representative from the Board of Governors.

The parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life; reference was made to the approachable staff, the excellent lines of communication, the caring and supportive ethos in the school and the effective learning support provided for children of all abilities. The responses from the teachers were very affirmative of the work of the school.

The inspectors also met with a group of children from year 6; they talked enthusiastically about their experiences at school, the support they receive from their teachers and report that they are happy and enjoy their learning. The children commented that they felt safe in school and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. Among the strengths are the excellent behaviour of the children, the celebration of their achievements, and the positive working relationships at all levels.

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

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example through the provision of healthy breaks, access to drinking water, and the availability of a wide range of physical activities, all of which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the children who display high levels of motivation and engagement, are responsive in class and welcoming to visitors;
- the quality of the teaching observed which was consistently good and, at times, outstanding;
- the progress made by the children in both literacy and numeracy, which is commensurate with their age and ability;

- the effective role which the classroom assistants play in supporting the children's learning;
- the very good progress made in developing a culture of self-evaluation to inform school development planning; and
- the very good leadership and management of the Principal who is ably supported by all of the staff.

## **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 learners and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

It will be important that the employing authority, governors and 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 the staff.

## **APPENDIX**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- There is no disability access to the school.

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Copies of this report are available on the DE website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.