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*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

Bellarena Primary School
Limavady

Inspected: February 2007

**BELLARENA PRIMARY SCHOOL, LIMAVADY, CO LONDONDERRY, BT49 0JB
(201-2087)**

Bellarena Primary School is situated on a pleasant site at the foot of Benovena Mountain some eight miles to the north-east of Limavady. Most of the children come from the surrounding rural area. The enrolment has remained constant in recent years and presently stands at 42. Approximately 10% of the children are entitled to free school meals.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the completion of questionnaires by the parents as well as a meeting with the children in year 6. Prior to the inspection, questionnaires were issued to the parents; 55% of these were returned to the Department of Education (DE). The parents indicated high levels of satisfaction with most aspects of the work of the school. There were a few aspects about which they expressed less satisfaction. These include the information they receive about the children's progress, and the quality and marking of the children's homeworks. Ten parents also added written comments; the majority of these raised the issues of homework and marking. These issues are addressed in this report.

The quality of pastoral care in the school is good. The environment is happy and secure; the children report that they know whom to turn to when they have any concerns. The school has procedures in place which reflect the guidance given in the relevant DE circulars. Through its self-evaluation the school has identified a number of measures it plans to take to enhance further the health and safety of the children. These include:

- further training in child protection for the designated teacher; and
- the installation of a secure door access system.

There are currently few strengths in the school's programme for the promotion of a whole-school approach to healthy eating. Some opportunities are provided for the children to participate in physical activities.

The strengths of the school include:

- the family ethos and the good working relationships that exist at all levels;
- the hard-working and committed teachers and classroom assistant who are dedicated to the education and pastoral care of the children;
- the quality of the teaching seen which was consistently sound;
- the quality of the children's responses, their application to the work, their co-operation with one another on shared tasks and their good behaviour;
- the standards achieved by most of the children which are in line with their abilities;
- the enthusiastic leadership of the Principal who has led a number of significant developments in the curriculum since her appointment within the last year; and

- the effective contribution made by the non-teaching staff to the work of the school.

The areas for improvement include the need to:

- focus short-term planning more sharply on what the children are expected to know, understand and be able to do;
- review and develop the school's homework policy in consultation with the parents; and
- use assessment for learning in order to effect further improvements in the standards the children attain.

In the areas inspected, the school has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the learners.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

A number of quantitative terms are used in the report. In percentages, the terms correspond as follows:-

- more than 90% - almost/nearly all
- 75%-90% - most
- 50%-74% - a majority
- 30%-49% - a significant minority
- 10%-29% - a minority
- less than 10% - very few/a small number.

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