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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**

**Carlane Primary School**  
**Toomebridge**

**Inspected: September 2009**



**CARLANE PRIMARY SCHOOL, TOOMEBRIDGE, CO ANTRIM, BT41 3NT  
(303-0713)**

Carlane Primary School is situated in a rural area, approximately three miles from Toomebridge. The enrolment has declined steadily over recent years and is currently 28. At the time of the inspection, approximately 4% of the children were entitled to free school meals and almost 4% of the children were on the special needs register.

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 20 questionnaires issued to the parents, eight (40%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including one which contained an additional written comment. All of the parental questionnaires and the written comment indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life. The teachers' responses were wholly positive.

A representative of the Board of Governors (governors) met with the inspection team on the first day of the inspection and expressed strong support for the work of the school, and the effective leadership provided by the Principal.

The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 and year 7 children; they talked happily and enthusiastically about their experiences at school. In particular, they spoke positively about the family atmosphere within the school and the range of extra-curricular activities available to them. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety and well-being.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. Among the strengths are the exemplary behaviour of the children, their active engagement in the decision-making processes relating to the creation of the school rules, and the appropriate use of praise and encouragement to motivate the children.

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

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

The strengths of the school include:

- the children's high levels of motivation, their active engagement in learning, and their ability to work both independently and collaboratively;
- the quality of the provision for learning in literacy and numeracy, including the high standards attained at the end of the key stages, which are above the Northern Ireland four year average\* ;

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\* The key stage outcomes should be interpreted with caution for small primary schools as a large percentage change from year to year can often be attributed to a very small number of children.

- the very good quality of the teaching in a majority of the lessons observed;
- the effective use of performance data to monitor and track the children's progress, and to set targets for improvement for individual children and at whole-school level;
- the quality of the school development plan and the well-embedded culture of self-evaluation, at all levels, leading to improvement; and
- the very good leadership provided by the Principal.

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.

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.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- There is a need for the staff and the governors to review the access arrangements to the playground to ensure the safety of the children at all times.

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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