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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



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

Crievagh Primary School
Cookstown

Inspected: April 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School:** Crievagh Primary School iii. **Date of Inspection:** W/B 29/04/2009
- ii. **School Reference Number:** 503-2693 iv. **Nature of Inspection:** Short

B.

School Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year 1 Intake	7	6	6	3	9
Enrolments					
Primary	34	37	34	34	40
Reception	-	-	-	-	-
Nursery Class/Classes	-	-	-	-	-
Special Unit	-	-	-	-	-

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):

97.1%

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)

2.6	-	-
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- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 16.6 NI PTR: 20.8%

- iii. Average Class Size: 6

- iv. Class Size (Range): 2 to 9

- v. Ancillary Support:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------|--|----|
| Number of Hours Per Week: | i. | Clerical support: | 10 |
| | ii. | Official Making A Good Start Support: | 15 |
| | iii. | Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 15 |

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 5%

- 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: 12.5

**CRIEVAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, COOKSTOWN, CO TYRONE, BT80 9SZ
(503-2693)**

Crievagh Primary School is situated in the rural townland of Crievagh, approximately four miles north-west of Cookstown. Almost all of the children come from the surrounding rural area. The enrolment has increased over recent years and currently stands at 40. At the time of the inspection, approximately 13% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 18% of the children require additional support with aspects of their learning.

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 21 questionnaires issued to the parents; 16 (76%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including ten which contained an additional written comment. All of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life; reference was made to the high quality of education the children receive, the hard-working teachers and support staff, the warm and caring environment, the wide range of experiences provided and the support for children of all abilities.

The inspectors also met with a group of children from years 6 and 7; they talked happily and enthusiastically about their experiences at school and the support and encouragement they receive from the staff. 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 excellent and a significant strength of the school; the Principal and the staff are dedicated to the children in their care. The teachers have high expectations of the children, encouraging them to be well-behaved, mannerly and to take pride in their work. The children are friendly and courteous; their behaviour is exemplary.

The school has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued in the relevant DE circulars. The governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures.

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example through the provision of healthy breaks and a wide range of extra-curricular activities, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include the:

- strong family and community ethos which permeates the school, and the provision for children with special educational needs;
- quality of the majority of the teaching observed which was good or better, and, on a few occasions outstanding;
- good standards achieved by the majority of the children in literacy and numeracy;
- very good quality and use made of the School Development Plan and associated action plans to promote school improvement;

- good start made to self-evaluation by the teachers including the use of appropriate data for tracking the children's progress; and
- excellent leadership provided by the Principal who is well supported by the hard working teachers and support staff.

The areas for improvement include the need to:

- disseminate the excellent practice within key stage 1 in order to improve further the standards in the children's learning throughout the school; and
- clarify further the key roles and responsibilities within the school in order that the staff can lead, manage, monitor and evaluate the implementation of their responsibilities more effectively.

CONCLUSION

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

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

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the 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

Review the security and access arrangements around and to the school site.

Throughout the report a number of quantitative terms are used which may be interpreted as indicated opposite:

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%

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