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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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**Department of Education**  
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**Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

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

**Cullycapple Primary School**  
**Aghadowey**

**Inspected: May 2009**



**CULLYCAPPLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, AGHADOWEY, COLERAINE,  
CO LONDONDERRY, BT51 4AP (301-2224)**

Cullycapple Primary School is situated in the rural townland of Aghadowey, approximately eight miles south of Coleraine. Almost all the children live within a radius of four miles. The enrolment has fallen in recent years and is currently 34. At the time of the inspection, approximately 24% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 26% 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 26 questionnaires issued to the parents, 13 were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including six 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 caring environment and the support for children of all abilities. The teachers' responses were wholly positive.

The inspectors also met with a group of children from years 6 and 7; they talked enthusiastically about many of their experiences at school, including the educational trips and range of extra-curricular activities. 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 supportive ethos throughout the school, the consultation with the parents before finalising key school policies, and the use of praise and encouragement to motivate the children. There are very good working relationships between the staff and children and the behaviour of the children is good. The classroom assistants contribute significantly to the life and work of the school.

The school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance in the relevant DE circulars, but the following minor areas need to be addressed: the development and agreement of a code of conduct for the staff; and, the training for the deputy designated teacher. The governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures.

The school gives satisfactory attention to developing aspects of healthy eating and physical activity, for example, the start made to developing healthy breaks, the implementation of a fruit tuck shop and the growing of vegetables in the school grounds. The areas for improvement identified include the need to have a more coherent planned development of a healthy eating programme.

**The strengths of the school include:**

- the caring ethos and very good arrangements for pastoral care;
- the quality of the teaching observed, which was always satisfactory and on a majority of occasions good or better;
- the standards attained by the children in literacy and numeracy;

- the commitment and dedication of the Principal;
- the hard work and enthusiasm of the teaching and non-teaching staff; and
- the good quality of the developing provision for the children who require additional support with their learning.

**The areas for development include the need:**

- to develop further the monitoring and evaluation, including the effective use of assessment data, in order to improve the learning experiences for the children and to ensure sufficient challenge and extension for the more able; and
- to promote further a culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement.

**CONCLUSION**

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas of improvement in leadership and management which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children 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, 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.

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

- 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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