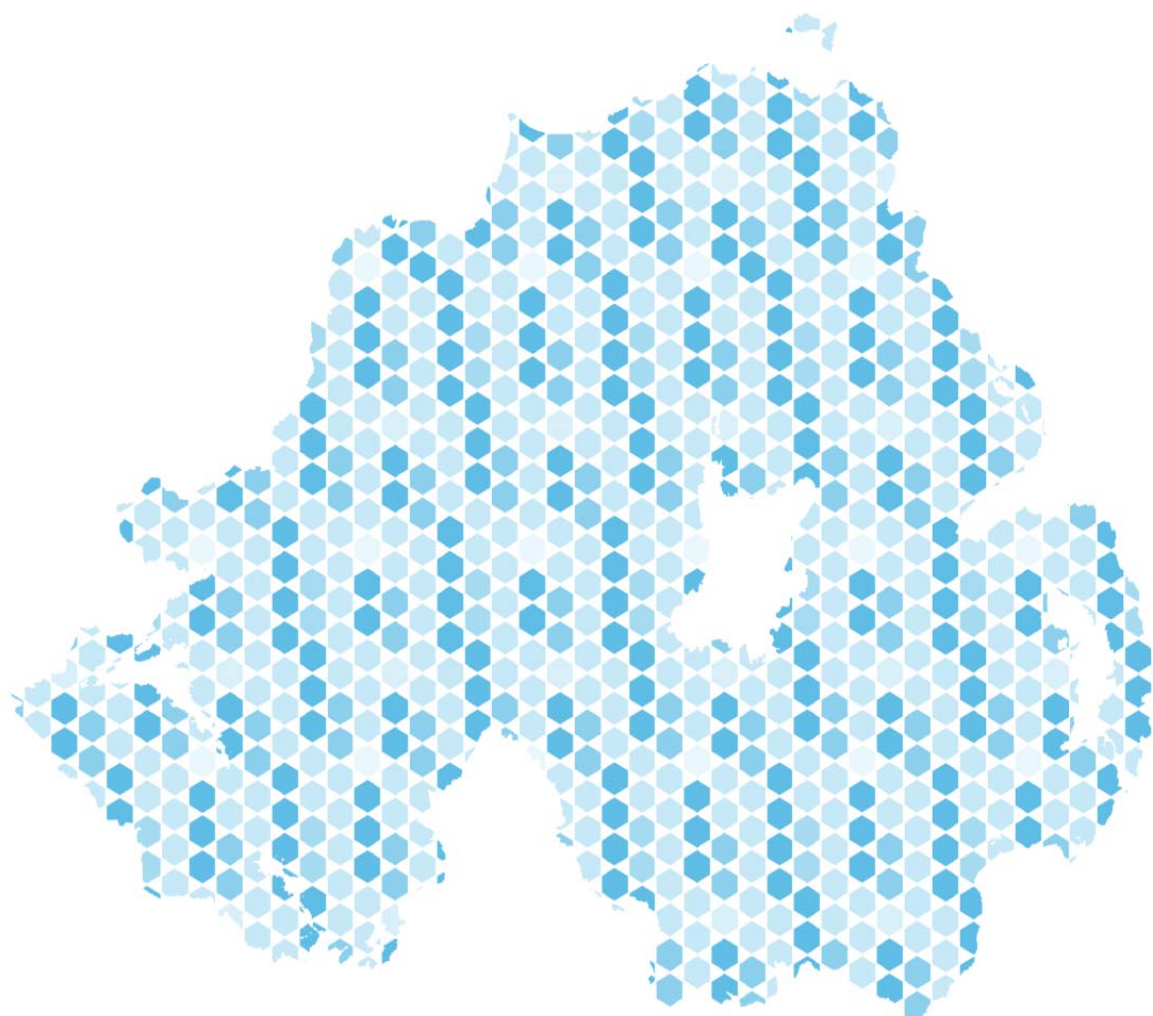


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Culnady Primary School,
Upperlands, Maghera

Report of an Inspection
in April 2010

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

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Culnady Primary**
Upperlands, Maghera
 ii. **School Reference Number: 301-2282**
 iii. **Date of Inspection: 21/04/10**
 iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	3	6	8	5	4
Enrolments					
Primary	52	46	46	41	36
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Special Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Irish Medium 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):

97.1%

NI Avg Att: 94.9%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit	Irish Medium Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers): 2.65 0 0 0
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)

- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 13.58 NI PTR: 20.4

- iii. Average Class Size: 12

- iv. Class Size (Range): 3 to 7

- v. Ancillary Support:

Number of Hours Per Week:	i. Clerical support:	6.5
	ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support:	10
	iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support:	7

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

- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 16.6%

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

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 2.8%

- x. Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09
 who attained level 4 and above in English and mathematics: **English** 71.4% **Mathematics** 71.4%

CULNADY PRIMARY SCHOOL, UPPERLANDS, MAGHERA, CO LONDONDERRY, BT46 5TT (301-2282)

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Culnady Primary School is situated in the village of Culnady approximately two miles from Maghera. The majority of the children come from the village and surrounding rural area. The enrolment has decreased over recent years and is currently 36. At the time of the inspection, just under 3% of the children were entitled to free school meals and just over 16% of the children were identified as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning.

FOCUS

The inspection focused on:

- the children's achievements and standards in literacy and numeracy;
- the quality of provision for learning; and
- the quality of leadership and management.

THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS, SUPPORT STAFF, GOVERNORS AND CHILDREN

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents, the teaching and the support staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 19 questionnaires issued to the parents, 42% were returned to Inspection Services Branch, including four which contained additional written comments. Most of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated high levels of satisfaction with the work of the school, in particular, the welcoming atmosphere, the caring staff and the development of the children's personal and social skills. The very few concerns raised were discussed with the Principal and a representative of the Board of Governors (governors). The responses from the teachers and the support staff were very positive. A representative of the governors met with the inspection team and expressed her appreciation for the work of the staff.

The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 children; they talked positively about their experiences at school, including, the friendly and caring atmosphere, the extra-curricular activities and the helpful teachers. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety or well-being.

PASTORAL CARE

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. Among the strengths are: the care the children display to one another, their exemplary behaviour, the supportive working relationships, and the children's involvement in the development of the positive behaviour policy.

CHILD PROTECTION

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

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity through, the embedding of healthy breaks and the promotion for physical activity outside of the classroom, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the child-centred, caring and supportive ethos;
- the children's motivation and engagement in their learning;
- the good standards achieved in numeracy and literacy at the end of key stage 1;
- the quality of the teaching observed, all of which was good or very good;
- the well-planned focus on promoting the children's thinking skills and personal capabilities; and
- the Principal's effective leadership in developing a culture of self-evaluation, including the use of data leading to improvement.

The area for improvement includes the need to:

- develop more detailed action plans to guide the teaching and learning in order to improve standards further.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the school's progress on the area 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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The fence around the perimeter of the school is a potential hazard and does not secure sufficiently the school grounds.

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