

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Derrychrin Primary School,
Cookstown

Report of an Inspection
in May 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:** Derrychrin Primary Cookstown
 ii. **School Reference Number:** 503-2713
 iii. **Date of Inspection:** W/B 05/05/10
 iv. **Nature of Inspection:** Short

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	12	11	16	11	16
Enrolments					
Primary	113	105	107	99	102
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): 95.1% **NI Avg Att:** 94.9%
- | | Primary &
Reception | Nursery
Unit | Special
Unit | Irish Medium
Unit |
|--|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|--|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers): 6 0 0 0
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 17 NI PTR: 20.4
- iii. Average Class Size: 20.4
- iv. Class Size (Range): 16 to 26
- v. Ancillary Support:
 Number of Hours **Per Week:**
- | | |
|---|----|
| i. Clerical support: | 30 |
| ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support: | 20 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 20 |
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 3.9%
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 26.4%
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 15.6%
- 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** 76.92% **Mathematics** 84.6%

DERRYCHRIN PRIMARY SCHOOL, COOKSTOWN, CO TYRONE, BT80 0BX (503-2713)

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Derrychrin Primary School is situated in the rural townland of Ballinderry on the western shore of Lough Neagh, County Tyrone. Almost all of the children come from the surrounding rural area. The enrolment has remained steady over recent years and currently stands at 102 children. At the time of the inspection, approximately 16% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 26% of the children require additional support with aspects of their learning.

FOCUS

The short 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 inspection also evaluated the school's arrangements for pastoral care and child protection.

THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS, GOVERNORS AND CHILDREN

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 65 questionnaires issued to the parents; 15 (23%) were returned to Inspection Services Branch, including seven which contained an additional written comment. All of the parental questionnaires and most of the written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with the work of the school; particular reference was made to the wide range of after-school activities, the very good quality of the teaching and achievements by the children, and the high regard in which the school is held by the local community. Representatives of the governors met with the inspection team on the first day of the inspection; they spoke very highly of the school, the staff and the leadership of the Principal. In particular, they value the commitment of the parents to the school and the hard work and dedication of all the staff in support of the children's learning.

Five teachers and three support staff completed the confidential online questionnaire with two containing an additional written comment. All of the responses were affirmative of the work of the school. An analysis of the questionnaires and the written comments made by the parents and the staff were shared with the Principal and the governors.

The inspectors also met with a group of the children from year 6 and 7; they talked enthusiastically about their experiences at school and the great support and encouragement they receive from their teachers. In addition, they reported that their opinions and suggestions are sought and acted upon. The children are aware of what to do if they have concerns about their safety and well-being.

PASTORAL CARE

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is outstanding; the Principal and the staff are highly committed to the children in their care. A very caring and supportive ethos and strong sense of community permeates all aspects of school life. The teachers have high expectations of the children, encouraging them to be well-behaved, mannerly and to take pride in their work.

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 outstanding attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example the contribution of the school council in healthy break provision and use of vegetables from the school garden to reinforce healthy eating messages and encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the strong family and community ethos that permeates the life and work of the school characterised by the excellent working relationships at all levels and the children's exemplary behaviour;
- the quality of the teaching observed which was consistently very good and on occasions outstanding and which contributes to the good standards achieved by most of the children, particularly in numeracy;
- the effective and inclusive support for the children with special educational needs;
- the excellent links established with the community and external agencies to support and enhance the children's experiences;
- the effective analysis of assessment data used to set the strategic direction for improvement, linked to a well considered school development plan; and
- the outstanding leadership provided by the Principal, who is supported effectively by the committed staff and governors.

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 learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2010

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk

