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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**

**Desertmartin Primary School**  
**Magherafelt**

**Inspected: May 2007**



**DESERTMARTIN PRIMARY SCHOOL, MAGHERAFELT, CO LONDONDERRY,  
BT45 5JZ (304-2162)**

Desertmartin Primary School is situated approximately one mile from the village of Desertmartin. The enrolment has fallen since 2002/03 to its current figure of 38. The children come from the surrounding rural area. Just over 18% of the children are entitled to free school meals.

There are major strengths in the quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection. The school has procedures in place which implement the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education Circulars. The governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures and have recently begun to be consulted in the design of policies to guide the work of the school. The school is currently designing an additional policy on cyber-bullying and appropriately they intend to involve the parents more fully in this process.

The school's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has many sound features. Attention is given to the development and implementation of programmes which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles through the long established practice of healthy breaks and ready access to drinking water. The children demonstrate a good understanding of the importance of eating breakfast and keeping hydrated, and opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a wide range of physical activities both during and after school.

The strengths of the school include:

- the positive and caring ethos which promotes the children's confidence and self-esteem;
- the friendly, courteous, and responsive children who display good levels of motivation and interest in their work;
- the hard-working and dedicated staff and the good working relationships at all levels;
- the quality of much of the teaching and the steady progress being made by the majority of the children;
- the effective use made of educational visits to places of interest as a starting point for the development of cross-curricular teaching and learning;
- the strong support of the parents and the governors and the high standing of the school in the community;
- the Principal's commitment to the welfare of the children and her staff and her role in promoting a strong sense of team-work; and
- the willingness of the Principal to reflect on her practice and bring about future improvements.

The areas for improvement include the need to:

- develop further the use of assessment data to help them to monitor and evaluate effectively the learning and teaching in a more systematic and rigorous way in order to ensure that all the children are working towards their full potential;
- set clear targets for the children's learning in their day-to-day practice and work more collaboratively with the children in reviewing these outcomes; and
- develop further the resources throughout the school.

The Principal and staff have begun to work together to self-evaluate specific aspects of the school's provision. This process should be further embedded to ensure that the children's learning experiences are monitored and evaluated effectively.

The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement which the school has the capacity to address.

The school's progress on the areas for improvement will be monitored by the District Inspector.

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