



*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

**Dromore Central Primary School
Co Down**

Inspected: May 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Dromore Central Primary** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 13.05.09**
- ii. **School Reference Number: 501-1575** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year 1 Intake	91	102	97	106	101
Enrolments					
Primary	609	631	643	659	661
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Class/Classes	0	0	0	0	0
Special 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):

96.4%

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)

28.9

0

0

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|------|--------------|
| ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): | 22.9 | NI PTR: 20.8 |
|--------------------------------|------|--------------|

- iii. Average Class Size: 26.4

- iv. Class Size (Range): 22 to 32

- #### v. Ancillary Support:

- Number of Hours Per Week:

- | | |
|----------------------|----|
| i. Clerical support: | 70 |
|----------------------|----|

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|
| ii. | Official Making A Good Start Support: | 110 |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|

- | | | |
|------|--|-----|
| iii. | Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 100 |
|------|--|-----|

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 2.7%

- | | | |
|------|---|-------|
| vii. | Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: | 22.7% |
|------|---|-------|

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

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 6.7%

**DROMORE CENTRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL, DROMORE, CO DOWN, BT25 1AD
(501-1575)**

Dromore Central Primary School is situated on the Banbridge Road in Dromore, County Down. The children come from the town of Dromore and from a wide surrounding area; the enrolment has increased steadily over the past five years and currently stands at 661. At the time of the inspection approximately 7% of the children were entitled to free school meals, 23% of the children were on the special needs register and there were nine children with English as an additional language.

The short inspection focused on achievements and standards, the quality of provision for learning and leadership and management.

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and teachers to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection and for members of the inspection team to meet with a group of children from year 6. One hundred and thirty two questionnaires were issued to parents; 41% of these were returned to the Department of Education (DE). Twenty-seven returns contained additional written comments. Most of the responses from the parental questionnaires indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of provision in the school. In particular the parents were appreciative of the positive, community ethos fostered within the school, of the regular information provided about all aspects of their children's education, and of the approachable, caring Principal and staff. The very small number of concerns raised by the parents has been discussed with the Principal and Board of Governors (governors).

All of the teaching staff completed the online questionnaire and seven teachers made additional written comment. The responses from the teachers were highly affirmative of the work of the school.

The children in year 6 reported that they enjoy school, that they feel secure and know whom to speak to if they have any concerns.

In addition, the governors wrote to the Reporting Inspector to express their support of the work of the school and to record their appreciation for the dedication shown by the Principal, teaching and non-teaching staff.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is good. There is a warm, welcoming environment, the teachers know the children well and there is a very good range of sporting and after-school activities.

The school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements generally reflect the guidance in the relevant DE circulars. There is a need for the school to review the Child Protection Policy to include information about the procedures for vetting and about how parents can make a complaint. In addition, an up-to-date record of child protection training should be maintained.

The main strengths of the school include:

- the strong sense of community that permeates the school;
- the quality of the teaching observed, the majority of which was good or better;
- the very good behaviour of the majority of the children;
- the opportunities for the children to contribute to decision making through, for example, the School Council and Eco Committee; and
- the hard-working Principal who is committed to making the best possible provision for all of the children.

The inspection identified the following areas for improvement:

- to develop more effective planning at all levels in order to ensure consistently high levels of learning and teaching; and
- to carry out a more rigorous monitoring and evaluation of all aspects of the school's provision in order to inform the school development planning process and to raise further the children's levels of attainment in literacy and numeracy.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in learning, teaching, 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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- There is a need for a risk assessment to be carried out with regards to access to the school grounds and building.

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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