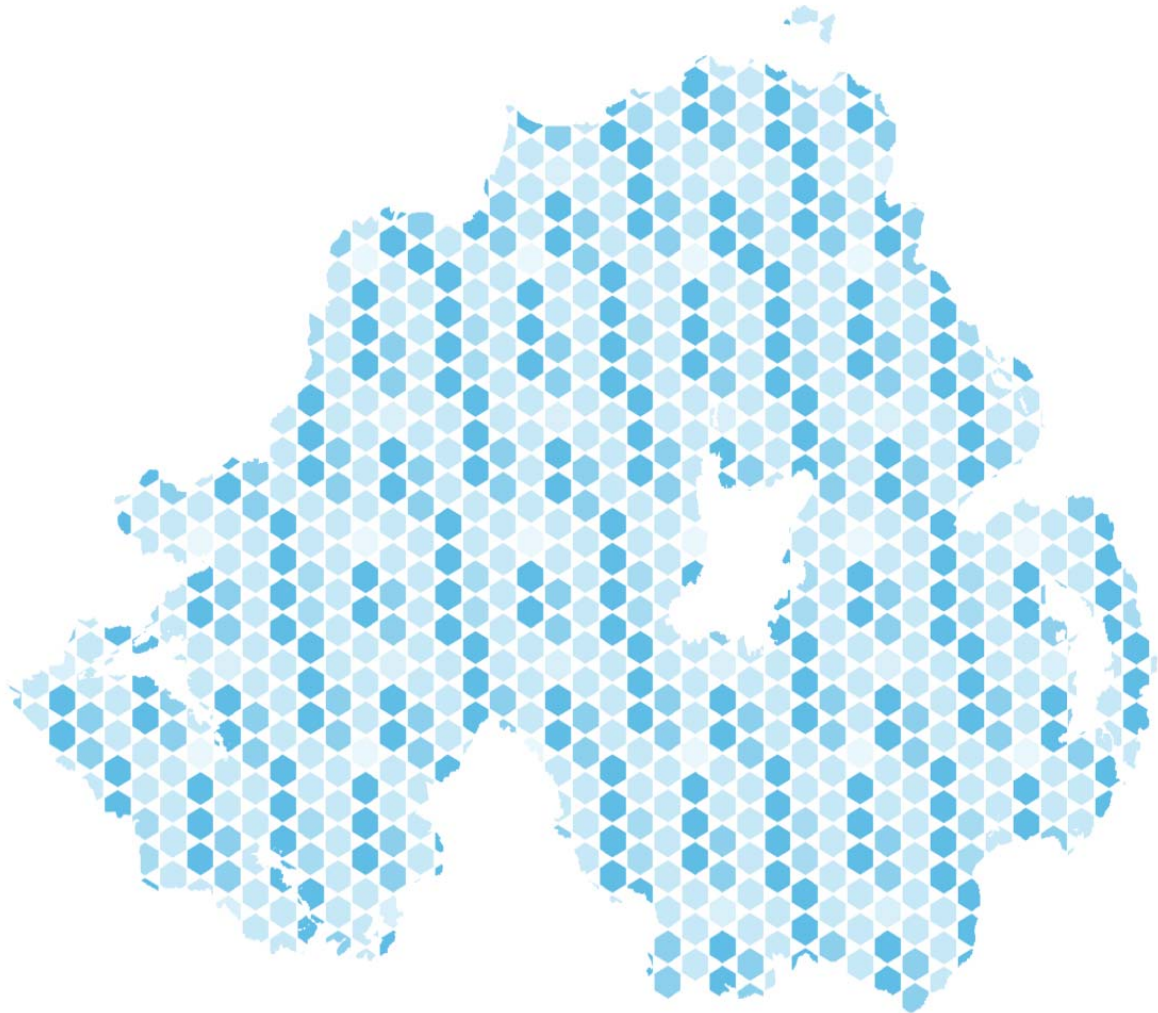


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Gillygooley Primary School,
Omagh

Report of an Inspection
in May 2010

eti

*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



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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

GILLYGOOLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT78 5PX (201-2648)

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Gillygooley Primary School is situated in a rural location, four miles from Omagh town, in County Tyrone. All of the children come from the local and surrounding rural area. The enrolment in the primary school has declined in the last five years and currently stands at 46. At the time of the inspection, none of the children were entitled to free school meals and 22% 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 school's arrangements for pastoral care and child protection were also evaluated.

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

The arrangements for the inspection included an opportunity for the parents, the teaching staff and the support staff to complete confidential questionnaires prior to the inspection. Of the 33 questionnaires issued to the parents, 52% were returned to Inspection Services Branch and five contained additional written comments. The responses from the questionnaires indicated that the parents value the family and community ethos, the approachable and hard-working staff and the children's enjoyment of learning. The very small number of matters raised related to communication of school policies to the parents and declining enrolment; these were shared with the school management.

All three of the teaching staff responded to the online questionnaire comments and included positive written comments about the life and work of the school.

The three support staff responded to the online questionnaire, including two who provided written comments. All of the responses indicated high levels of job satisfaction and complimented highly the work of the teaching staff.

Three members of the Board of Governors (governors) also met with the inspectors on the first day of the inspection and expressed satisfaction with the work of the staff, the support of the parents and acknowledged the challenges of implementing a revised curriculum in a small school and the sustainability of the school itself.

The inspectors also met with a group of children from years 6 and 7. The children reported that they are aware of what to do if they have concerns about their safety or well-being. They talked enthusiastically about the range of enjoyable experiences in school and indicated that they could benefit from after-school activities and in particular sport activities.

PASTORAL CARE

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good.

The strengths of the provision include:

- the exemplary behaviour of the children;
- the very good working relationships at all levels; and
- the warm and welcoming ethos.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department but the following area needs to be addressed:

- the organisation of the records of concerns, and the update of some staff and governor training, to ensure the procedures comply fully with Department of Education (DE) circulars.

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity through, for example, the Gardening Club and role of the Eco Council in monitoring food waste, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the well-motivated children who display positive attitudes to learning;
- the caring, supportive and inclusive ethos;
- the hard-working teaching and support staff and the quality of the teaching observed which was good or very good in the majority of the lessons;
- the standards the children attain, including those identified with special educational needs, in numeracy, and the talking and listening and reading aspects of literacy;
- the effective work of the Principal in leading developments and planning for the enhanced provision for the children; and
- the development of an eco-friendly school which is exemplified by an attractive and stimulating physical outdoor learning environment.

The area for improvement is the need to:

- raise the children's achievements and standards in writing through provision of opportunities for extended, independent and creative writing.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this 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 organisation 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.

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