

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Glasswater Primary School,
Crossgar, Downpatrick

Report of an Inspection
in May 2010



*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, the Inspectorate 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: Glasswater Primary School**
Crossgar, Downpatrick
- iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 19/05/2010**
- ii. **School Reference Number: 401-6681**
- iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	0	0	11	11	11
Enrolments					
Primary	0	0	76	76	77
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): | | 95.3% | 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):
(Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours) | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| | ii. | PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): | 19.25 | NI PTR: 20.4 | |
| | iii. | Average Class Size: | 19.25 | | |
| | iv. | Class Size (Range): | 15 to 22 | | |
| | v. | Ancillary Support:
Number of Hours Per Week : | | | |
| | | i. Clerical support: | | 14 | |
| | | ii. Foundation Stage Classroom
Assistant Support: | | 14.5 | |
| | | iii. Additional hours of other
classroom assistant support: | | 14.5 | |
| | vi. | Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: | | Nil | |
| | vii. | Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: | | 15.58% | |
| | viii. | Number of children who are not of statutory school age: | | 0 | |
| | ix. | Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: | | 9.09% | |
| | 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
100% | Mathematics
100% |

**GLASSWATER PRIMARY SCHOOL, CROSSGAR, DOWNPATRICK, CO DOWN
BT30 9EG (401-6681)**

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Glasswater Primary School is situated in the village of Crossgar, in Co Down. The school was established in September 2007 as the result of the amalgamation of the Drumaghilis Primary School and Crossgar Primary School. The enrolment is currently 77. At the time of the inspection, approximately 10% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 16% of the children were identified as requiring help 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. In addition, the school was selected as part of a sample to monitor the implementation of the healthy food in schools initiative.

THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS, GOVERNORS AND CHILDREN

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 76 questionnaires issued to the parents; 22 (29%) were returned to Inspection Services Branch, including six which contained an additional written comment. Almost all of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life. The very few issues raised were discussed with the Principal. The teachers' and support staff's responses were wholly positive.

A group of the Board of Governors (governors) met with the inspection team on the first day of the inspection. They spoke of the challenges faced by the school community at the time of the amalgamation. They praised highly, the efforts made by the staff, parents, children and the wider community to develop positive working relationships within the new school. They praised the school ethos, the commitment of the staff and the high regard with which the school is held in the community.

The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 children; they talked happily and enthusiastically about their experiences at school, and the support and encouragement they receive from the staff. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety and well-being.

PASTORAL CARE

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is good. Since the amalgamation, the staff have worked very hard to create a positive ethos based on good working relationships at all levels. The children are courteous to visitors and display exemplary behaviour. The teaching and support staff work closely as a team and the

non-teaching staff make a valuable contribution to the life and work of the school. Good use is made of the learning environment to celebrate the children's work and record their activities and achievements.

CHILD PROTECTION

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

- update training in child protection procedures for non-teaching staff.

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, through the provision of the well established healthy breaks scheme and popular cookery club. The area for improvement identified includes the need to reinforce the healthy eating messages to further develop the children's knowledge and understanding of nutrition and health.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the good standards achieved by the majority of the children in literacy and numeracy;
- the quality of the teaching observed, most of which was good or better and which was outstanding on two occasions;
- the well-behaved and mannerly children who display high levels of motivation in their learning;
- the good range of extra-curricular activities provided which enrich the children's learning experience;
- the staff's commitment to the self-evaluation process which demonstrates improvement in aspects of the school's work; and
- the hard-working and committed Principal and Vice-principal , who managed the amalgamation of the two schools successfully and are well-supported by the dedicated staff.

The area for improvement is:

- the need to make more effective use of performance data to inform the planning, to set targets for the children and to track individual, class and whole school progress.

Currently the School Development Plan does not meet fully the requirements of the School Development Plans Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005; the staff need to include numeracy on the plan and develop appropriately targeted action plans.

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The side door into the school building is not secure.
- The mobile classroom is not secure. Visitors can gain access to the room via the playground. The room is located away from the main school; the teacher using the room for special needs withdrawal sessions, has no means of contacting the school staff for support should an emergency arise.

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