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*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**

**Grange Primary School**  
**Kilkeel**

**Inspected: April 2009**



## **GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL, KILKEEL, CO DOWN, BT34 4LL (503-1589)**

Grange Primary School is situated in the townland of Grange about three miles south west of Kilkeel, Co Down. The enrolment has fallen slightly in recent years from 119 in 2004/05 to its current figure of 106; most of the children travel to school within a radius of four miles and almost all by car. Approximately 18% of the children are entitled to receive free school meals. The school has identified just over 13% of the children as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning.

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 74 questionnaires issued to the parents; 32 (43%) were returned to DE, including 12 which contained an additional written comment. The inspection team also met separately with the Chair of the Board of Governors and with a parent.

The parental questionnaires and written comments indicated high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life; reference was made to the good quality of education the children receive, the hard-working, approachable and enthusiastic staff, the happy and caring environment, the wide range of experiences provided and the support for children of all abilities. The teachers' responses were wholly positive. A few parents raised concerns about the school which have been discussed with the Principal and are addressed within the report.

The inspectors also met with a group of children from year 6; they talked happily and enthusiastically about their educational experiences and how they value the school in meeting friends. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety and well-being.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. Among the strengths are the positive working relationships which foster an inclusive and supportive ethos in the school, and the efforts the school makes to celebrate the efforts and achievements of the children. The children respond well to the staff's expectations: their behaviour is very good.

The school has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity; through for example encouraging the children to eat healthy breaks, the range of sports activities available to the children and the play facilities, all of which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include the:

- strong family ethos, the happy atmosphere and the good working relationships;
- internal and external environments of the school which are effectively used to promote learning and teaching;
- good quality of the majority of the teaching observed which ranged from good to outstanding;

- good standards attained by the majority of the children in literacy and numeracy;
- school's developing processes for self-evaluation and its commitment to school development planning to bring about improvement; and
- effective management of the school by the Principal and vice-Principal.

The areas for improvement include the need to:

- address the poor quality of learning and teaching in one class; and
- raise the standards of attainment in literacy and numeracy for a minority of the children.

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 standards and learning and teaching 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 organisation's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

## APPENDIX

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

There is no secure access on the main entrance to the school.

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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