



*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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

Greenisland Primary School
Carrickfergus

Inspected: October 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Greenisland Primary Carrickfergus** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 19/10/2009**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 301-0817** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	54	54	58	60	60
Enrolments					
Primary	394	373	381	379	383
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):

96%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit	Irish Medium Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers): 16 0 0 0
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 23.9 NI PTR: 20.4
- iii. Average Class Size: 27.4
- iv. Class Size (Range): 23 to 30
- v. Ancillary Support:
 Number of Hours **Per Week**:
- | | |
|---|----|
| i. Clerical support: | 40 |
| ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support: | 60 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 20 |
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 0.6%
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 10%
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 2%
- x. Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09 who attained level 4 and above at English and mathematics: **English** 85% **Mathematics** 91%

**GREENISLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, CARRICKFERGUS, CO ANTRIM, BT38 8RA
(301-0817)**

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Greenisland Primary School is situated in Greenisland, three miles from Carrickfergus and ten miles from Belfast. The enrolment has remained steady over recent years and is currently 383. Approximately 2% of the children are entitled to free school meals. The school has identified approximately 10% of the children as needing additional support with 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 VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS, GOVERNORS AND CHILDREN

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and the teachers to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection, as well as meetings with groups of children from years 6 and 7. One hundred and twenty-seven families were issued with questionnaires; just over 56% were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including 41 which contained an additional written comment. Most of the responses from the parental questionnaires were strongly affirmative of the work of the school, highlighting in particular the dedication of the Principal and his caring attitude towards the children, the opportunity for the children to be introduced to a second language, the good progress made by the children, the dedication and hard work of the staff, and the prompt response of the staff in dealing with incidents.

A majority of those parents who made additional written comments indicated the need for more effective communication between home and school with regard to policies and procedures, the children's progress, arrangements for the children in relation to the deployment of staff within the school, and more information regarding procedures dealing with incidents and concerns. The issues raised were discussed with the Principal. The responses from the teachers were wholly positive.

The inspectors also met with the year 6 children; they talked enthusiastically about their experiences in school and the supportive and caring staff. The children reported that they enjoy school, feel safe and secure and are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety and well-being.

PASTORAL CARE

The provision for pastoral care within the school is good.

Among the strengths are:

- the excellent behaviour of the children;

- the positive working relationships at all levels;
- the strong ethos of care and support throughout the school;
- the orderly, well maintained school environment; and
- the contribution made by the non-teaching and ancillary staff in supporting the work of the school.

CHILD PROTECTION

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

- the parents should be consulted on the school's anti-bullying policy and procedures.

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, through the promotion of healthy breaks, school food policy and sporting opportunities, all of which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the excellent behaviour of the children, their motivation and their positive attitude towards learning;
- the good quality of most of the teaching observed;
- the good standards of the children's work and the levels attained in English and mathematics which are above the Northern Ireland average; and
- the opportunities for the children to experience an additional language and their enjoyment of the Arts.

The areas for improvement include:

- the need to adopt a more rigorous and systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating the work of the school and the standards achieved by all of the children; and
- the need for management, at all levels, to provide stronger curricular leadership in order to promote a broader range of teaching strategies and enrich the learning experiences for all 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 learning and teaching and leadership and management which need to be addressed if the needs of all of 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.

APPENDIX

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The lack of car parking space around the school results in hazardous conditions for the children arriving and departing from school.

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

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