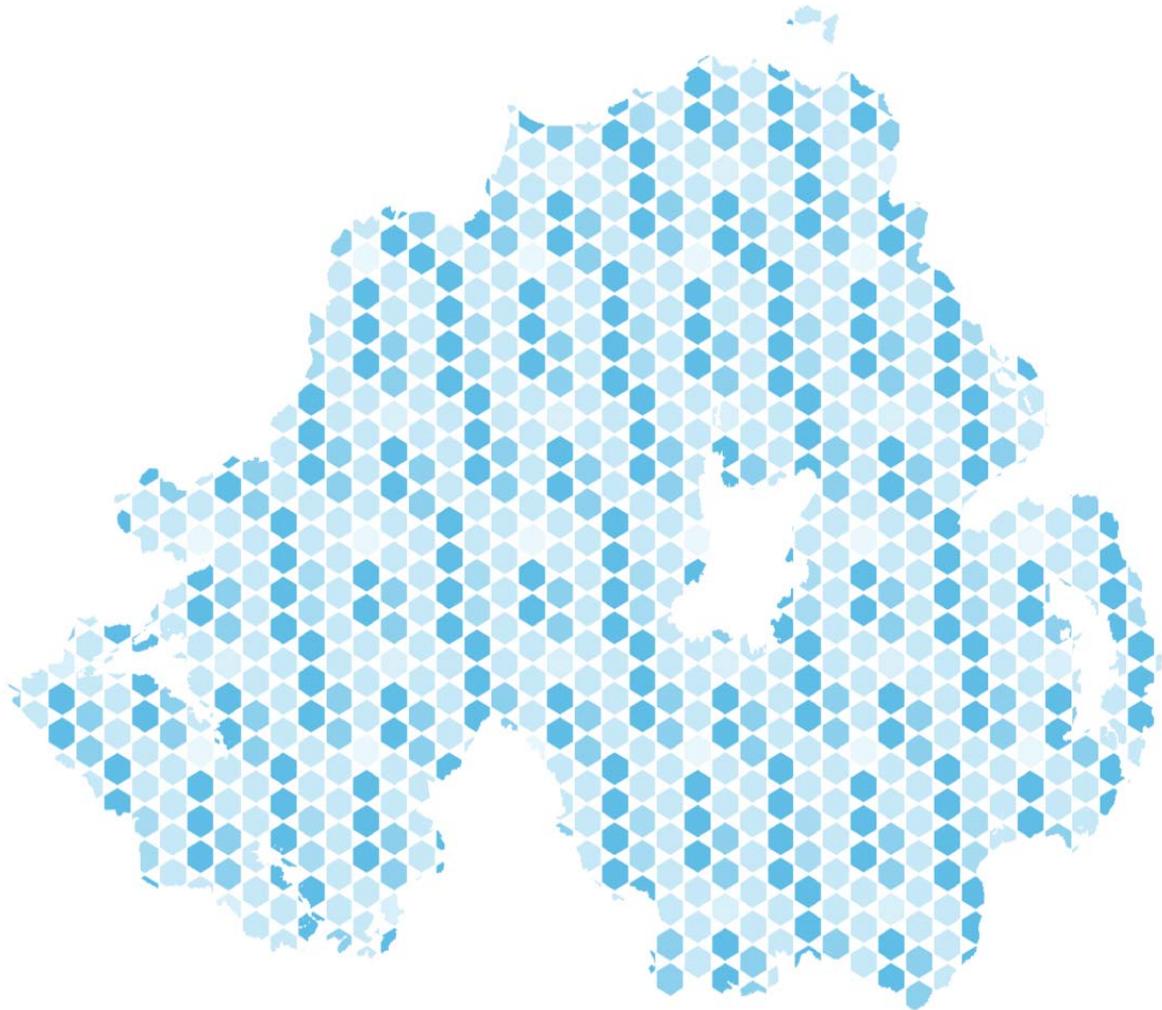


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Lissan Primary School,
Cookstown

Report of an Inspection
in January 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, the Inspectorate relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

| DESCRIPTOR |
|----------------|
| Outstanding |
| Very Good |
| Good |
| Satisfactory |
| Inadequate |
| Unsatisfactory |

LISSAN PRIMARY SCHOOL, COOKSTOWN, CO TYRONE, BT80 9XE (503-2262)

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Lissan Primary School is situated in the parish of Lissan, approximately three miles north-west of Cookstown, County Tyrone. The children come from the surrounding rural area and the nearby town of Cookstown. The enrolment has increased over recent years and currently stands at 97 children. At the time of the inspection, approximately 10% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 15% of the children require additional support 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.

THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS, GOVERNORS AND CHILDREN

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 68 questionnaires issued to the parents; 29 (43%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including 14 which contained an additional written comment. All of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with the work of the school; particular reference was made to the caring and supportive Principal and staff, the excellent quality of the teaching and achievements by the children, and the high regard in which the school is held by the local community. Representatives of the Board of Governors (governors) met with the inspection team on the first day of the inspection; they endorsed fully the support for the school as indicated in the responses to the questionnaires.

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

PASTORAL CARE

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is outstanding; the Principal and the staff are highly committed to the children in their care. A very caring and supportive ethos and strong sense of community pervades all aspects of school life. The teachers have high expectations of the children, encouraging them to be well-behaved, mannerly and to take pride in their work.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued in the relevant DE circulars. The school is currently awaiting an update of child protection training for the designated teacher, the deputy designated teacher and for the newly appointed governors.

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, through the provision of healthy breaks and a wide range of extra-curricular activities which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the effective and inclusive support for the children with special educational needs;
- the quality of the teaching observed, which was good or better in nearly all of the lessons and outstanding in a significant minority;
- the very good standards achieved by the children in literacy and in mathematics;
- the excellent links established with the community and external agencies to support and enhance the children's experiences;
- the outstanding pastoral care provision which fosters the exemplary behaviour of the children and their positive attitude to learning; and
- the leadership and commitment provided by the Principal supported effectively by the staff and governors.

The area for improvement is the need to:

- develop a more systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching throughout the school in order to inform more comprehensively the School Development Plan and ensure that the very good standards in literacy and numeracy are maintained.

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- There are no toilet facilities in the in the temporary classrooms. The children are therefore required to use facilities in the main school and the younger children have to be escorted by an adult. This is disruptive to learning, impedes the development of independence in younger children and creates health and safety difficulties during inclement weather.
- The floor tiles in the year 3/4 mobile classroom are showing signs of deterioration and present a health and safety hazard.

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