



*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**

#### **Londonderry Primary School Newtownards**

**Inspected: May 2009**

## BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Londonderry Primary Newtownards** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 11.05.09**  
 ii. **School Reference Number: 401-6004** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year 1 Intake	55	46	44	47	54
<b>Enrolments</b>					
Primary	299	304	313	315	338
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Class/Classes	0	0	0	0	0
Special 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%

<b>Primary &amp; Reception</b>	<b>Nursery Unit</b>	<b>Special Unit</b>
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- D. i. Number of Teachers  
 (including the principal and part-time teachers):  
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)

16	0	0
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- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 21.125% NI PTR: 20.8

- iii. Average Class Size: 24.14

- iv. Class Size (Range): 21 to 28

- v. Ancillary Support:  
 Number of Hours **Per Week**:

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| i. Clerical support:  | 35 |
| ii. Official Making A Good Start Support:                   | 80 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 85 |

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 2.07%

- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 24.26%

- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 19.52%

**LONDONDERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTOWNARDS, CO DOWN, BT23 4EY  
(401-6004)**

Londonderry Primary School is a large school in the centre of Newtownards town. The children come from a wide catchment area. The current enrolment is 338 children. The school has identified approximately 24% of the children who require additional support with aspects of their learning. Nineteen and a half percent of the children are entitled to free school meals.

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection, as well as meetings with the governors and the children from year 6.

One hundred and five families were issued with questionnaires; approximately 53% of which were returned to the Department of Education (DE) with 29 containing additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaires were very positive and highlighted the commitment of the Principal and the dedication of the teaching and support staff, the happy and well settled children, the individual support provided for them and the very effective communication between the school and the parents.

Members of the inspection team met with representatives from the Board of Governors (governors); they highlighted the good efforts made by the school to develop links with the parents, the local community and with a local maintained primary school under the Schools Community Relations Programme; they acknowledged the hard-working teaching and ancillary staff and the leadership of the Principal.

All of the teachers completed the staff questionnaire, and 14 provided additional written comments. The responses from the teachers were highly positive about the work of the school.

The children in year 6 talked enthusiastically about the many aspects of school life they enjoy and reported that they feel safe and know what to do in the event of a concern. The comments made through the questionnaires have been discussed with the Principal and the governors.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good and a significant strength of the school; the Principal and the staff are dedicated to the children in their care. The teachers have high expectations of the children, encouraging them to be well-behaved, mannerly and to take pride in their work. The children are friendly and courteous.

The school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by DE but the following minor areas need to be addressed; ensure that all of the staff are trained in child protection matters and consult further with the staff, children and parents when revising school policies.

The school gives very good attention to promoting health and well-being, including opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the very positive ethos; the secure, orderly learning environment within the school and the strong links with the parents and the community;
- the quality of the teaching, which was good or very good in most of the lessons observed;
- the standards the children achieve by the end of key stage 2, in particular, the very good levels of attainment in numeracy;
- the very good provision for the children with special educational needs;
- the hard-working and dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff; and
- the strong leadership of the Principal and his high expectations of, and support for, the staff and children.

The area for improvement is:

- the need to develop further the school development plan processes and related action plans to ensure they are focused more specifically on key targets and to assist the management team to plan, monitor and evaluate improvement more effectively.

## CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the school's progress on the areas for improvement.

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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