



*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

**Longstone Primary School
Ahoghill**

Inspected: May 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- | | | | | |
|----|-----|---|------|---|
| A. | i. | School: Longstone Primary
Ahoghill | iii. | Date of Inspection: W/B 20.05.09 |
| | ii. | School Reference Number: 301-0466 | iv. | Nature of Inspection: Short |

B.

School Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year 1 Intake	12	8	6	7	7
Enrolments					
Primary	60	64	56	57	52
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):

98%

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

3.7

0

0

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-------|--------------|
| ii. | PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): | 14.05 | NI PTR: 20.8 |
|-----|----------------------------|-------|--------------|

- iii. Average Class Size: 17

- iv. Class Size (Range): 15 to 20

- v. Ancillary Support:

- Number of Hours Per Week:**

- | | | |
|------|--|----|
| i. | Clerical support: | 28 |
| ii. | Official Making A Good Start Support: | 10 |
| iii. | Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 0 |

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 0%

- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 13%

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

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 15%

**LONGSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL, AHOGHILL, BALLYMENA, CO ANTRIM,
BT42 2PN (301-0466)**

Longstone Primary School is situated three miles from the village of Ahoghill in County Antrim. All of the children come from the surrounding rural area. The enrolment has declined over recent years and is currently 52. At the time of the inspection, 15% of the children were entitled to receive free school meals and 13% of the children were identified as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning.

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and teachers to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection, as well as meetings with groups of children from years 6 and 7. Thirty families were issued with questionnaires; 63% were returned to the Department of Education of which 12 contained additional written comments. The majority of the responses from the parental questionnaires indicated a high level of satisfaction with the life and work of the school highlighting, in particular, the friendly, helpful and caring teachers. The responses from the teachers were very affirmative of the work of the school. The children talked enthusiastically about their enjoyment of school and reported that they feel safe and secure and know what to do in the event of a concern. The issues raised by a minority of the parents through the questionnaires and the written comments were shared with the Principal.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. This is evident through the child centred ethos, the quality of the working relationships throughout the school and the celebration of the children's achievements.

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

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example the promotion of Healthy Breaks Weeks and the distribution of a Healthy Snacks Recipe Booklet, all of which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the good levels of engagement and motivation displayed by the children in their learning;
- the quality of the teaching observed which was always good or better, with almost one-third being outstanding;
- the good standards achieved by most of the children in numeracy and literacy;
- the very good provision made for the children with special educational needs;
- the good progress made in developing a culture of self-evaluation to inform school development planning; and
- the very good leadership of the Principal, ably supported by the staff.

The area for improvement is:

- the need to develop further the assessment strategies used across the school to inform more effectively the quality of learning and teaching.

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 an area for improvement which the school 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, governors and 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

- There are no visibility panels in the classroom doors.
- The security of the external classroom is inadequate.

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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