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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**

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Short Inspection**

**Mullavilly Primary School**  
**Tandragee**

**Inspected: October 2009**

**BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

- A. i. **School:** Mullavilly Primary School, Tandragee  
 ii. **School Reference Number:** 501-1095  
 iii. **Date of Inspection:** W/B 05/10/2009  
 iv. **Nature of Inspection:** Short

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	12	14	12	21	12
<b>Enrolments</b>					
Primary	102	92	88	98	99
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): 95.3%

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): 7 0 0 0  
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. **PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio):** 21.5 NI PTR: 20.4
- iii. **Average Class Size:** 25
- iv. **Class Size (Range):** 23 to 26
- v. **Ancillary Support:**  
**Number of Hours Per Week:**
- i. Clerical support: 17.5
  - ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support: 25
  - 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:** 20%
- viii. **Number of children who are not of statutory school age:** 0
- ix. **Number of families in school:** 74
- x. **Percentage of children entitled to free school meals:** 9%
- xi. **Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09**  
 who attained level 4 and above at English and maths: **English** 100% **Maths** 100%

## **MULLAVILLY PRIMARY SCHOOL, TANDRAGEE, CO ARMAGH, BT62 2LX (501-1095)**

### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

Mullavilly Primary School is a rural school situated between Tandragee and Portadown. The enrolment has remained steady over recent years and is currently 99. At the time of the inspection, approximately 9% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 20% of the children were on the special educational needs register.

### **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 teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 74 questionnaires issued to the parents; 25 (33%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including ten which contained an additional written comment. Almost all of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life; reference was made to the very good oral and written communication received by parents, the high standards set in all areas of school life, the dedicated staff, the wide range of extra-curricular activities and the high standing of the school in the community. The single issue raised was discussed with the Principal. The teachers' responses were wholly positive.

Two members of the Board of Governors (governors) met with the inspection team on the first day of the inspection. They expressed strong support and appreciation for the work of the school; in particular they praised the recently appointed Principal for her dedication and hard work.

The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 children; they spoke enthusiastically about the teachers, the range of after school activities and their work in the environment. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety and well-being.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. Among the strengths are the positive relationships at all levels which foster an inclusive and supportive ethos throughout the school and the effective consultation with the parents and children, for example, in relation to the development of the school's anti-bullying policy.

## CHILD PROTECTION

The school has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements generally reflect the guidance in the relevant DE circulars. The governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures.

## HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school promotes healthy eating and physical activity. The pupils engage in purposeful physical activities at break and lunch time. A well designed playground coupled with the availability of a variety of appropriate sports equipment encourage high activity levels amongst the pupils.

The strengths of the school include the:

- very good working relationships at all levels and the high standards of behaviour of the children;
- extensive range of extra-curricular activities including the effective use of the school environment to promote learning;
- good or better teaching in half of the lessons observed;
- satisfactory standards attained by the children in literacy and numeracy by the end of key stage 2;
- well constructed School Development Plan and associated action plans which address most of the current needs of the school; and
- very good leadership provided by the Principal, who has a strong vision for the future development of the school.

Areas for Improvement include the need to:

- develop a more rigorous and strategic approach to monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching throughout the school; and
- meet more appropriately the needs of all the learners.

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh the areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in standards, learning and teaching, middle management and leadership 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 school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

## **APPENDIX**

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

A risk assessment should be carried out on the access arrangements to the school grounds and building.

The adult toilets are situated at the entrance to the administrative office which is shared by the Principal and secretary. In the interests of confidentiality and health and safety, this arrangement should be reviewed.

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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