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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Providing Inspection Services for
**Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

**Oakgrove Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit
Londonderry**

Inspected: March 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Oakgrove Integrated Primary School** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 31/03/09**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 206-6558** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year 1 Intake	49	51	61	51	58
Enrolments					
Primary	399	393	415	399	394
Reception	-	-	-	-	-
Nursery Class/Classes	52	52	52	52	52
Special Unit	-	-	-	-	-

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):

93.6%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit
------------------------	-----------------	-----------------

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------|---|----------|--------------|----------|
| D. | i. | Number of Teachers
(including the principal and part-time teachers):
(Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours) | 19.2 | 1 | 1 |
| | ii. | PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): | 20.5 | NI PTR: 20.8 | |
| | iii. | Average Class Size: | 28 | | |
| | iv. | Class Size (Range): | 25 to 31 | | |
| | v. | Ancillary Support:
Number of Hours Per Week : | | | |
| | | i. Clerical support: | | | 97 hours |
| | | ii. Official Making A Good Start Support: | | | 90 |
| | | iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | | | 47½ |
| | vi. | Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: | | | 4% |
| | vii. | Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: | | | 39% |
| | viii. | Number of children who are not of statutory school age: | | | - |
| | ix. | Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: | | | 23% |

OAKGROVE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT, LONDONDERRY (206-6558)

Oakgrove Integrated Primary School is situated in Rectory Field on the Limavady Road, Londonderry. The school opened in 1991 and moved into purpose-built accommodation in 1999. The enrolment has remained steady over recent years and is currently 394.

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents/guardians and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. One hundred and thirty questionnaires were issued to parents/guardians and 31 were returned to the Department of Education (DE) including 17 with additional written comments. All the questionnaire returns and almost all the written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with the work and the life of school; reference was made to the happy, welcoming atmosphere; the child-centred, inclusive, caring ethos; the support for children of all abilities; and the wide range of extra-curricular activities. The very few issues raised by some of the parents/guardians in their written comments were discussed with the Principal. Seventeen of the teachers completed a questionnaire and their responses were completely positive.

Inspectors also met with a group of year 6 children; the children talked happily and enthusiastically about their experiences at school, and the support and encouragement they receive from the staff. They reported that they feel safe and enjoy school, and that they know what to do in the event of a concern.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in this school is excellent. Working relationships at all levels are excellent.

The school has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children which reflect fully the guidance in the relevant DE circulars.

The strengths of the school include:

- the caring, inclusive ethos which helps promote learning and teaching;
- the quality of teaching observed, the majority of which ranged from good to very good, and on occasions was outstanding;
- the excellent working relationships at all levels;
- the effective strategies in place to support and encourage positive behaviour for all of the children;
- the very good quality of the provision for children with special educational needs including the work of the special educational needs co-ordinator and the classroom assistants;

- the standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy, which are in line with their abilities; and
- the outstanding leadership of the Principal supported by her Vice-principal.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

NURSERY UNIT

The nursery unit opened in 1999; in 2002 it moved into purpose-built accommodation within Oakgrove Integrated Primary School. The children come from a very wide catchment area. The provision consists of two part-time classes, each with 26 children.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A minority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and eight made additional written comments. Those who responded indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the overall provision and they recorded their appreciation of the caring and professional staff, the information they receive about the children's progress and the wide range of interesting activities provided for the children.

All of the responses have been shared with the management of the school.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the nursery is excellent. Appropriate policies and procedures are in place, the ethos is very positive and relationships at all levels are very good. The children are settled, confident and happy, and their behaviour is very good.

The nursery has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the DE.

The nursery gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity.

The main strengths within the nursery unit's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.

- The daily sessions are very well organised and provide lengthy periods of uninterrupted play. The routines and transitions are well managed and the children have daily opportunities for stories, rhymes and songs.
- The staff are caring and supportive in their interactions with the children. Appropriate systems of planning have been developed and the staff are skilful in exploiting the learning potential within the play activities.
- The children enjoy their play and show sustained interest in the broad range of activities provided. Their language skills are well developed and they display high levels of confidence and independence.
- There are good opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The promotion of the children's personal, social and emotional development is a particular strength. Early mathematical concepts are developed very naturally and the children show a very strong interest in early writing.
- Those children with special educational needs receive very valuable support from the staff team. Good links have been established with the school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and the teacher with responsibility for those children for whom English is an additional language.

- The staff have developed effective pastoral and curricular links with the school's foundation stage teachers, to ensure a smooth transition process as the children move from the nursery into year 1.

The teacher in charge of the nursery has worked hard to develop the provision and is currently accessing training to develop her leadership role. The planned programme is evaluated regularly and the staff have identified appropriate areas for development. The staff are in the process of developing more sharply focused action plans to help them monitor and evaluate ongoing improvement in provision and outcomes for the children.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this nursery is very good. The nursery is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE NURSERY UNIT IN OAKGROVE
INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, LONDONDERRY 206-6558**

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	0	0
Attending part-time	26	26
Under 3 years of age*	0	5
With a statement of SEN	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4	1	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2	2	0
With English as an additional language	0	2

* On 1 July.

** Special Educational Needs.

*** The stages refer to those set out in the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

Percentage qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 or 2.	12%
Average attendance for the previous year.	89%

2. Duration of Sessions

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm
	2½ hours	2½ hours

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Teachers	1	0
Nursery Assistants	0	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	1	0

Number of: ****	
Students	2
Trainees	

**** Total placements since September of current year

4. Parental Questionnaires (to be completed by Inspection Services Branch)

Number issued	52
Number returned	16
Number of written comments	8

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