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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
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**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**

#### **Our Lady's and St Mochua's Primary School Armagh**

**Inspected: November 2008**

## BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Our Lady's and St Mochua's Primary Armagh**      iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 24.11.08**  
 ii. **School Reference Number: 503-6639**                      iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year 1 Intake	17	24	26	23	23
<b>Enrolments</b>					
Primary	137	143	152	163	170
Reception	7	5	4	3	5
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):

96.2%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers  
 (including the principal and part-time teachers):                      8.2                      0                      0  
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio):                      21.3                      NI PTR: 20.8
- iii. Average Class Size:                      24.2
- iv. Class Size (Range):                      19 to 28
- v. Ancillary Support:  
 Number of Hours **Per Week**:
- |   |      |
|---|------|
| i. Clerical support:  | 20   |
| ii. Official Making A Good Start Support:                   | 35   |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 97.5 |
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs:                      7%
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register:                      21%
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age:                      5
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals:                      6%

**OUR LADY'S AND ST MOCHUA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ARMAGH, BT60 3EZ  
(503-6639)**

Our Lady's and St Mochua's Primary School is situated in Derrynoose, approximately three miles from the town of Keady. The enrolment has increased steadily over recent years and is currently 175. In addition to the Principal there are seven full-time teachers including the Vice-principal and one part-time teacher.

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 117 questionnaires issued to the parents; 62 (53%) were returned to Department of Education (DE), including 32 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 hard work and commitment of all of the staff, the caring and happy ethos, the wide range of experiences provided for the children, the support for children of all abilities and the standards which they achieve. The very small number of issues raised were discussed with the Principal.

The teachers' responses and written comments were wholly positive; references included the strong sense of team-spirit among the staff, parents and Board of Governors (governors) and the excellent support received from the Principal.

A group of parents and a number of governors requested meetings with the inspection team, at which both groups expressed strong support and appreciation for the work of the school and praised highly the child-centred ethos.

The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 children; they talked enthusiastically about the range of extra-curricular activities, the support and encouragement they receive from the staff. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety and well-being.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in this school is outstanding. Among the strengths are:

- the excellent relationships with parents in supporting the school's curricular and pastoral development;
- the exemplary behaviour of the children, their very high levels of motivation and engagement in all aspects of school life;
- the wide range of extra-curricular activities; and
- the inspirational learning environment provided for the children, which is of the highest possible standard.

The school has excellent arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect fully the guidance in the relevant DE circulars. The governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures and have had the opportunity to contribute to a range of effective policies which guide the work of the school. Among the strengths are the high priority given to the health and well-being of the staff and children and the consultation with the children on aspects of school provision through the School Council.

The strengths of the school include:

- the dedicated teachers, who bring a sense of enjoyment and enthusiasm to their work;
- the high quality of the teaching, which was very good or outstanding in almost all of the lessons observed;
- the high quality of the provision for children with additional learning needs, under the very effective leadership of the special educational needs co-ordinator, well supported by the classroom assistants;
- the outstanding leadership of the Principal and vice-Principal and their empowerment of all of the teaching staff to be leaders of learning;
- the high expectations that the teachers hold that are reflected in the high standards that the children attain in literacy and numeracy; and
- the dedication and hard work of the school secretary, caretaker, canteen staff, parents, governors, and the wider community to every aspect of the life of the school.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this school is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The school has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

A number of quantitative terms are used in the report. In percentages, the terms correspond as follows:-

- 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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