

eti

*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

**Shanmullagh Primary School
Ballinamallard, Enniskillen**

Inspected: February 2007

**SHANMULLAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLINAMALLARD, ENNISKILLEN,
CO FERMANAGH, BT94 2LZ (201-1866)**

Shanmullagh Primary School is a small rural school situated between Enniskillen and Ballinamallard. Most of the children come from the surrounding area; the enrolment in 2002-03 was 46, at present, there are 26 children attending the school.

Approximately 4% of the children are entitled to free school meals. The school identifies four children as requiring additional learning support.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care included the completion of confidential questionnaires by the parents and a meeting with a group of children from key stage (KS) 2. Prior to the inspection, 19 families were provided with questionnaires on the life and work of the school. Twelve families responded to the questionnaire, with seven of them providing additional written comments. The majority of the parents expressed support for the work of the school; they commended, particularly, the dedication of the Principal and the staff. The matters of concern raised by individual parents have been brought to the attention of the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (BoG) and the Principal and are addressed in the body of this report. The children report that they feel safe and secure within the school and that they know whom to turn to if they have any concerns.

The school reports that the employing authority, the Western Education and Library Board, manages the vetting and recruitment procedures for all the staff that are in contact with the children. Procedures have not yet been put in place which enable the staff to implement fully the guidelines outlined in the Department of Education Circulars 1999/10, "Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection" and 2003/13 "Welfare and Protection of Pupils Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order". This situation needs to be addressed urgently to include, in particular, a review of the overall policy for child protection, the embedding of training, including awareness-raising for the staff, the BoG and the parents. In addition, there is a need to ensure effective communication and reporting of both complaint and referral procedures in relation to child protection matters.

The school gives good attention to promoting health and has appropriate programmes in place which encourage the children to adopt healthy eating. There are opportunities for all the children to participate in a wide range of physical activities. The children demonstrate a good understanding of the importance of making healthy life choices.

The school has strengths, which include:

- the children's good behaviour, courtesy and friendliness to visitors and to one another;
- the attractive displays of the children's work which celebrate their creative talents and achievements;
- the children's opportunities to develop competence in the use of information and communication technology;
- the range of experiences provided in KS2 to develop the children's interest in reading and language development;

- the good range of extra-curricular activities;
- the hard work of the teachers and the support provided by the classroom assistants;
- the commitment of the Principal, who as a good role model sets a positive tone for the school team; and
- the support of the BoG and most of the parents for the work of the school.

The areas for improvement include the need to:

- develop further the teachers' planning and assessment to support more effective teaching and learning processes to provide appropriate learning experiences matched to the needs and abilities of the children, and to promote greater consistency in the children's standards and higher attainments across the school;
- comply more fully with the Education (School Development Plans) Regulations (Northern Ireland) of 2005 and, in particular to, urgently review the policy and procedures for child protection; and
- ensure that the governance of the school manage effectively the issues centred on the sustainability of the school provision and the school budget in order to address the current and future educational and pastoral needs of all the children and the staff.

In the areas under focus, the school has a number of strengths in its educational provision. The inspection has identified substantial areas for improvement, which need to be addressed promptly if the school is to meet effectively the needs of all the learners.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing these areas for 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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2007

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the DE website: www.deni.gov.uk or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.