



*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

**St Aidan's Christian Brothers' Primary School
Belfast**

Inspected: May 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School:** St Aidan's Christian Brothers' Primary iii. **Date of Inspection:** W/B 11.05.09
- ii. **School Reference Number:** 103-0316 iv. **Nature of Inspection:** Short

B.

School Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year 1 Intake	27	35	24	14	22
Enrolments					
Primary	214	214	204	176	169
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):

91%

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)

9	0	0
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- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 18.8% NI PTR: 20.8

- iii. Average Class Size: 24.1

- iv. Class Size (Range): 21 to 28

- v. Ancillary Support:

Number of Hours **Per Week:**

- | | |
|---|------|
| i. Clerical support: | 36 |
| ii. Official Making A Good Start Support: | 32.5 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 144 |

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 1.8%

- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 48.5%

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

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 68.6%

**ST AIDAN'S CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT12 7FW
(103-0316)**

St Aidan's Christian Brothers' Primary School is situated in Ballymurphy in west Belfast. The enrolment has remained steady over recent years and is currently 169. At the time of the inspection, approximately 69% of the children were entitled to free school meals and almost 49% of the children were on the special educational needs register.

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 159 questionnaires issued to the parents, 18 were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including five 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. Similarly, almost all of the teachers' responses were positive. An analysis of the questionnaires and the written comments made by the parents and the teachers were shared with the Principal.

The 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. 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 the school is outstanding. Among the strengths are the celebration of the children's work and achievements, the positive working relationships at all levels throughout the school and the consultations held with the children, for example, through the school council.

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

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity; through for example the healthy breaks programme and the provision of additional playground resources, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the very welcoming, happy and supportive ethos that permeates all aspects of school life;
- the comprehensive self evaluation of the work of the school undertaken by the Principal and staff;
- the quality and effectiveness of the School Development Plan which has identified appropriate priorities for school improvement;
- the very good leadership of the Principal who, with the staff, has created a shared vision for the future of the school;

- the exemplary behaviour of the children and their sense of identity with the school community; and
- the efforts made by the school to involve parents in the education of their children.

Areas for Improvement include:

- the need to raise the quality of teaching in a minority of instances to the level of the good quality of teaching observed during the inspection; and
- the need to continue to raise standards in literacy and numeracy in line with the targets identified by the school.

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

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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