



*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 Brigid's Primary School
Altamuskin, Sixmilecross**

Inspected: March 2008

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: St Brigid's Primary**
Altamuskin, Sixmilecross
ii. **School Reference Number: 203-2573**
iii. **Date of Inspection: 06.03.08**
iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Year 1 Intake	11	12	7	14	7
Enrolments					
Primary	65	73	69	77	68
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): 96.7%

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) | 4 | 0 | 0 |
|----|----|---|---|---|---|

- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 17 NI PTR: 20.8

- iii. Average Class Size: 18

- iv. Class Size (Range): 14 to 18

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|----|-----------------------------------|------|--|
| v. | Ancillary Support: | | |
| | Number of Hours Per Week : | i. | Clerical support: 12.5 |
| | | ii. | Official Making A Good Start Support: 10 |
| | | iii. | Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: 8.8 |

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 1.5%

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|------|---|------|
| vii. | Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: | 8.8% |
|------|---|------|

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

- | | | |
|-----|---|-------|
| ix. | Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: | 19.1% |
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ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ALTAMUSKIN, SIXMILECROSS, CO TYRONE, BT79 9JA (203-2573)

St Brigid's Primary School is situated three miles south of the town of Sixmilecross, County Tyrone. The children travel from the surrounding rural area within a radius of approximately three miles. The current enrolment figure is 68. Approximately 19% of the children are entitled to receive free school meals. Seven children have been identified as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning.

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete confidential questionnaires prior to the inspection as well as meetings with groups of pupils from year 6. Forty-eight questionnaires were issued to the parents; 54% of these were returned to the Department of Education (DE), of which 13 contained written comments. Three members of staff responded positively through the on-line questionnaire. The responses from the parental questionnaires indicated strong support for the school within the community and that the children are safe, secure and well-settled at school. The views arising from the written responses have been shared with the Principal and the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (governors).

The children talked enthusiastically about the many aspects of school life which they enjoy and, from the discussion, there is evidence that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their well-being.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the school is very good. The school has procedures in place which implement fully the guidance outlined in the relevant DE Circulars. The governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures. The strengths include the very caring and supportive ethos and the quality of the relationships throughout the school.

The strengths of the school include:

- the quality of pastoral care and the commitment of the staff to the welfare of the children;
- the quality of teaching which was consistently good and, on occasions, excellent;
- the children's participation in, and understanding of, the learning process;
- the hard-working teachers and their commitment to their management roles;
- the excellent leadership of the Principal; and
- the effective self-evaluation which is promoting improvement.

CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this school is excellent. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are being very well met. The parents can have confidence in the school's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

APPENDIX

ACCOMMODATION AND HEALTH & SAFETY

- Access to the school buildings needs to be more carefully controlled.

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