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*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 Dympna's Primary School**  
**Dromore, Omagh**

**Inspected: March 2007**



**ST DYMPNA'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DROMORE, OMAGH, CO TYRONE, BT78 3AJ (203-6186)**

St Dympna's Primary School is situated in the town of Dromore, County Tyrone. The school has moved recently to new, well-equipped premises near the town centre. Enrolment has remained steady over the past four years and currently sits at 88.

There are significant strengths in the quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection. The school has procedures in place which implement the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education (DE) Circulars and has identified appropriately a few minor areas for improvement which it is currently implementing; these include the update of information to parents on the school's complaints procedure and the issuing of a policy for the acceptable use of the Internet.

The school gives consistently good attention to the children's health and well-being. Appropriate policies and programmes, including the Smart Snacks Scheme and the ready access to drinking water, are in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles. The staff are committed to improving the health, well-being and eating habits of the children through the reinforcement of healthy eating messages and by providing a wide range of physical activities. The children demonstrate a good awareness of the importance of making healthy life choices and, generally, have a sound understanding of what constitutes healthy foods. While the School Development Plan (SDP) makes reference to the promotion of a healthy eating environment, the programme by which this is to be achieved needs to be set out in greater detail in order to comply with statutory regulations.

The strengths of the school include:

- the excellent behaviour of the children;
- the commitment of the staff to the well-being and pastoral care of the children;
- the stimulating and purposeful working environment;
- the dedication and hard work of the teachers;
- the positive attitude of the children to their learning;
- the teachers' detailed planning for learning;
- the quality of the teaching observed, which was always satisfactory and at times excellent;
- the direction and contribution of the Principal to important pastoral and curricular initiatives;
- the strong links with the local community; and
- the support of the parents and the Board of Governors for the life and work of the school.

The areas for improvement include the need for the school to:

- agree and implement a clear and prioritised SDP; and
- monitor and evaluate more effectively the quality and outcomes of learning and teaching in order to promote ongoing improvement.

The reflective practice evident in the teachers' planning provides a good starting point to develop a more focused whole-school approach to self-evaluation. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few areas for improvement in important areas which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all of the children.

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.

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