

*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

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Short Inspection**

**St James' Primary School  
Markethill**

**Inspected: October 2009**

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

|                         |   |               |
|-------------------------|---|---------------|
| Almost/nearly all       | - | more than 90% |
| Most                    | - | 75%-90%       |
| A majority              | - | 50%-74%       |
| A significant minority  | - | 30%-49%       |
| A minority              | - | 10%-29%       |
| Very few/a small number | - | less than 10% |

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

| DESCRIPTOR     |
|----------------|
| Outstanding    |
| Very Good      |
| Good           |
| Satisfactory   |
| Inadequate     |
| Unsatisfactory |



## **ST JAMES' PRIMARY SCHOOL, MARKETHILL, CO ARMAGH, BT60 1QF (503-1167)**

### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

St James' Primary School is situated in the parish of Ballymore and Mullabrack close to Markethill, County Armagh. The enrolment has decreased over recent years and is currently 27. At the time of the inspection, approximately 4% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 7% of the children were identified as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning.

### **FOCUS**

The inspection focused on:

- the children's achievements and standards in literacy and numeracy;
- the quality of provision for learning; and
- the quality of leadership and management.

### **THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS AND CHILDREN**

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 19 questionnaires issued to the parents, seven (37%) were returned to the Department of Education, and five of these contained an additional written comment. All of the parental questionnaires indicated very high levels of satisfaction with aspects of school life, highlighting in particular, the high quality of care afforded to the children in the school, the extent to which the children are safe and secure in the school and the steps taken by the school to develop the children's personal and social qualities. The few issues raised were discussed with the Principal.

The inspectors also met with the year 6 children; they talked enthusiastically about their experiences at school, the opportunities they are given to use information and communication technology (ICT) and the rewards they receive for their good behaviour. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety or well-being.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is satisfactory. Strengths of the provision include:

- the quality of the relationships throughout the school; and
- the very caring and supportive ethos.

The following area needs to be addressed in order to improve the provision for the children:

- the need to ensure that the policies for pastoral care, including the policy for handling incidents of bullying, are communicated effectively to parents.

## CHILD PROTECTION

The school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. While these arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by DE, the school needs to ensure:

- that arrangements for child protection are made known directly to the parents/guardians at least every two years; and
- that the newly appointed governors are trained in child protection matters and are qualified to sit on recruitment or selection panels.

## HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

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

## CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the overall quality of teaching which, in all lessons observed, was satisfactory and in the majority of instances was good or very good;
- the quality of relationships at all levels;
- the behaviour of the children and the overall quality of their responses;
- the standards achieved by the majority of the children in mathematics; and
- the use of ICT to enhance learning and teaching.

Areas for Improvement include:

- the need to address the shortcomings in the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection;
- the need to plan more effectively for learning and teaching, in particular for play-based learning in the foundation stage; and
- the urgent need to review the school development plan in order to reflect more closely the areas identified in the school's own self-evaluation process and set realistic targets for development.

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 learning and 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.

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

**ACCOMMODATION/HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- The security system was not functioning during the inspection.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2010

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 ETI website:  
[www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk)

