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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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**Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

**St Jarlath's Primary School
Blackwatertown**

Inspected: April 2008

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: St Jarlath's Primary Blackwatertown** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 23.04.08**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 503-6121** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Year 1 Intake	24	21	20	22	21
Enrolments					
Primary	147	155	154	158	153
Reception	4	3	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): 83.6%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special
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- D. i. Number of Teachers (including the principal and part-time teachers): 7.2
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours) 0 0
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 21.1 NI PTR: 20.8
- iii. Average Class Size: 22
- iv. Class Size (Range): 17 to 29
- v. Ancillary Support:
 Number of Hours **Per Week**:
 i. Clerical support: 25
 ii. Official Making A Good Start Support: 15
 iii. Additional hours of other Classroom assistant support: 50
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 3%
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 15%
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 18%

**ST JARLATH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, BLACKWATERTOWN, DUNGANNON,
CO TYRONE, BT71 7HH (503-6121)**

St Jarlath's Primary School is situated in the village of Blackwatertown, County Tyrone. The children come from the surrounding rural area within a radius of approximately three miles. The enrolment, which currently sits at 153, has remained steady over the past five years. Approximately 18% of the children are entitled to receive free school meals; 15% of the children have been identified as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care included the completion of confidential questionnaires by the staff and parents, and a meeting with a group of the children from year 6. Prior to the inspection, 107 families received questionnaires on the life and work of the school. Fifty-nine responded to Department of Education (DE), representing 55%, of which 19 included additional written comments. Seven members of staff responded through the online questionnaire; all of their responses about the life and work of the school were positive. The responses from the parental questionnaires and the views arising from the written responses have been shared with the Principal. The year 6 children reported that they feel safe within the school and know whom to turn to in the event of a concern.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection is excellent and is a significant feature in the school. The school has procedures in place which implement fully the guidance outlined in the relevant DE circulars. The Board of Governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures. Thoughtful assemblies and circle time ensure that appropriate emphasis is placed on celebrating the children's achievement and caring for others within the school and wider community.

The school gives very good attention to promoting the children's health and well-being. The emphasis placed on healthy eating and the good opportunities provided for physical activity encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the excellent quality of pastoral care and the commitment of the staff to the welfare of the children;
- the quality of teaching observed most of which was consistently good and, often, excellent;
- the children's positive attitude to learning, their participation in, and understanding of, the learning process, the quality of their work in literacy and mathematics and the good standards they achieve;
- the hardworking teachers and support staff who work well together as a team;
- the excellent leadership of the Principal; and
- the effective use made of self-evaluation which is promoting improvement.

The school has in place a comprehensive School Development Plan (SDP) that meets fully the requirements of the School Development Plans Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 2005; key priorities for development are identified and appropriate action plans have been drawn up to assist the staff with aspects of this work.

CONCLUSION

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

No follow-up inspection is required.

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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