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**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 John's Primary School
Coleraine**

Inspected: April 2008

**ST JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY, BT51 3DX
(303-3709)**

St John's Primary School is situated on the west side of Coleraine. Most of the children come from the town. The enrolment has declined in recent years from 206 five years ago to the current figure of 184. Seventeen per cent of the children are entitled to receive free school meals. Almost 25% of the 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 children from years 6 and 7. One hundred and thirty-two questionnaires were issued to the parents; almost 45% of these were returned to the Department of Education (DE), of which 18 contained written comments. All members of staff responded positively through the on-line questionnaire. The responses from the parental questionnaires indicated the parents believe that their children are safe, secure and well-settled at school. The views arising from the written responses have been shared with the Principal and the governors.

The children talked with enthusiasm 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 excellent. 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 and have had an opportunity to contribute to a range of effective policies which guide the work of the school. The strengths include:

- the caring and supportive ethos;
- the excellent behaviour of the children;
- the range of effective policies which guide the pastoral provision; and
- the opportunities to enrich the children's experiences through a range of extra-curricular activities and educational trips.

The school's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths. Appropriate attention is paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programmes through, for example, the promotion of healthy breaks, a healthy breakfast club and communication with parents that encourages the children to adopt healthy lifestyles. The few areas for improvement identified include the need:

- to explore ways to encourage healthier lunch boxes; and
- to develop further the monitoring and evaluation of health education and healthy eating provision in order to identify appropriate action to improve the quality of the provision.

The strengths of the school include:

- the well-motivated and confident children who achieve standards in line with, or above, their abilities;
- the quality of the teaching which, in most of the lessons observed, had many good features and, in a majority, was consistently good;
- the committed and hard-working teachers, who prepare well for their lessons;
- the excellent leadership of the Principal, who is ably supported by the management team;
- the very good school development plan that is based on rigorous self-evaluative processes; and
- the effective involvement of the parents and the wider community in the life and work of the school.

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.

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