



*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 Joseph's Primary School  
Ederney**

**Inspected: May 2008**

## BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: St Joseph's Primary Ederney** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 27.05.08**  
ii. **School Reference Number: 203-6070** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B

School Year	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Year 1 Intake	19	22	22	12	25
<b>Enrolments</b>					
Primary	148	153	153	152	142
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Class/Classes	26	26	26	26	26
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):

97%

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)

8 1 0

- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 20.28 NI PTR: 20.8

- iii. Average Class Size: 20.28

- iv. Class Size (Range): 12 to 25

- |    |                                   |      |   |
|----|-----------------------------------|------|---|
| v. | Ancillary Support:                |      |   |
|    | Number of Hours <b>Per Week</b> : | i.   | Clerical support: 18.5                                    |
|    |                                   | ii.  | Official Making A Good Start Support: 10                  |
|    |                                   | iii. | Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: 65 |

- |     |  |      |
|-----|--|------|
| vi. | Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: | 2.11 |
|-----|--|------|

- |      |   |      |
|------|---|------|
| vii. | Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: | 17.6 |
|------|---|------|

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

- |     |   |       |
|-----|---|-------|
| ix. | Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: | 14.1% |
|-----|---|-------|

**ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, EDERNEY, CO FERMANAGH, BT93 0HA  
(203-6070)**

St Joseph's Primary School is situated on a pleasant site in the village of Ederney in County Fermanagh. The enrolment currently sits at 142, a slight decrease from recent years. In addition, a nursery class operates a part-time day for 26 pre-school children.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 102 questionnaires issued to the parents, 36 (35%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE); eleven contained additional written comments. Almost all of the parental questionnaires and most of the written comments indicated high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life; reference was made to the commitment of the staff, the caring and supportive atmosphere of the school and the range of experiences provided for the children. Almost all of the teachers responded to the on-line questionnaire: the responses and written comments were wholly positive; references included the strong sense of team-spirit within the school and the excellent support received from parents. The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 children; they reported that they feel safe and happy in school and know what to do in the event of a concern. The very small number of concerns raised by a few parents were discussed with the Principal.

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 the opportunity to contribute to a range of effective policies which guide the work of the school. Among the strengths are the strategies to promote the children's confidence, self-esteem and independence; the excellent quality of the school environment to promote the children's learning, and the effective leadership and commitment of key pastoral personnel.

The school gives excellent attention to promoting the children's health and well-being. There are effective policies in place which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles and the school has developed appropriate programmes to promote healthy eating and physical activity. The school has recently achieved the gold award in the Health Promoting Schools initiative.

The strengths of the school include:

- the very positive and inclusive ethos; characterised by the excellent relationships that were evident during the inspection;
- the dedication of all of the staff and their strong commitment to the children and to the life and work of the school;
- the quality of the teaching observed, which was consistently good and, in the majority of instances, outstanding;

- the children's positive attitude to their learning and the good standards they attain in their work;
- the well-established culture of continuous school improvement through an agreed process of self-evaluation; and
- the inspirational leadership of the Principal and the important contribution of the Vice-principal.

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

No follow-up inspection is required.

## **EDERNEY COMMUNITY NURSERY**

The purpose-built nursery facility is situated in its own grounds adjacent to St. Joseph's Primary School, Ederney. Most of the children who attend the nursery come from the village of Ederney and the surrounding rural area.

The parents and staff were given opportunities to express their views about the nursery through the inspection questionnaire. Approximately 39% of the parents responded to the questionnaire; they indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the provision. An issue raised by a parent has been shared with the Principal.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the nursery is very good. The nursery has procedures in place which implement fully the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education (DE) Circulars. The governors, staff and parents are fully aware of the nursery's procedures.

The nursery gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

**The main strengths within the nursery's educational and pastoral provision are as follows.**

- The nursery has a very positive ethos with a clear sense of purpose, and the working relationships at all levels are excellent. There is a caring and supportive atmosphere which helps to promote the children's confidence and self-esteem; the children respond well to the staff and their behaviour is excellent.
- The learning environment is bright, stimulating and well-organised, with attractive and colourful displays that celebrate the children's work.
- The daily timetable is carefully organised to provide a good balance of free play and adult-led activities. The routines are unobtrusive and used effectively to provide choice and promote the children's independence.
- There is a wide range of interesting and imaginative activities which stimulate the children's curiosity and promote very good learning opportunities in all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The staff are skilful in promoting the children's thinking skills and language development through the play activities and group sessions.
- The quality of the written planning is good and guides the staff in their work with the children. The staff monitor and record the children's progress, and are developing more efficient ways of using this information to inform further the planning.

The nursery is managed effectively and the teacher-in-charge provides an excellent role-model in her work with the children. The teacher and nursery assistant have identified appropriate areas for further development in the Nursery Development Plan.

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

No follow-up inspection is required.

## STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON EDERNEY COMMUNITY NURSERY

### 1. Details of Children

<b>Number of children:</b>	<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Class 2</b>
Attending full-time	0	0
Attending part-time	26	0
Under 3 years of age*	0	0
With statement of special educational needs	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	0	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	0	0
With English as an additional language	0	0

\* On 1 July.

\*\* The stages refer to those set out in the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

Percentage qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 or 2.	0%
Average attendance for the previous year.	97%

### 2. Duration of Sessions

<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time: am</b>	<b>Part-time: pm</b>
-	2¾ hours	-

### 3. Details of Staff

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>
Teachers	0	1
Nursery Assistants	0	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	0	1

<b>Number of: ***</b>	
Students	2
Trainees	0

\*\*\* Total placements since September of current year

### 4. Parental Questionnaires (to be completed by Inspection Services Branch)

Number issued	26
Percentage returned	38.46%
Number of written comments	2

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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