

**eti**

*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

*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  
Madden**

**Inspected: February 2008**



## **ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MADDEN, CO ARMAGH, BT60 3LR (503-1138)**

St Joseph's Primary School is situated in the townland of Madden, about five miles from the city of Armagh. The enrolment has remained steady over recent years and currently sits at 123. There are five full-time class teachers including the Principal and one part-time teacher.

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 73 questionnaires issued to the parents; 31 (43%) were returned to Department of Education (DE), including 20 which contained an additional written comment. Almost all of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life. The small number of issues raised by one parent were discussed with the Principal and the Board of Governors (governors). The teachers' responses and written comments were wholly positive. A small group of parents and a number of governors requested meetings with the inspection team. Both groups spoke very favourably about the work of the school. 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 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 high priority given to the health and well-being of the staff and children and the consultation with children on aspects of school provision.

The strengths of the school include:

- the exemplary behaviour of the children, their very positive attitudes to learning and the standards they attain;
- the very high quality of the pastoral care, characterised by excellent working relationships at all levels;
- the enthusiasm and hard work of all of the teachers and their commitment to meeting the individual needs of the children;
- the high standard of the teaching which was consistently sound and, in most of the lessons observed, was very good or better;
- the inspirational and visionary leadership of the Principal and his commitment to the process of continuous school improvement; and
- the very high level of involvement of parents, governors and the wider community in the life of the school.

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.

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

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

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 DE website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.