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*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 Malachy's Primary School
Glencull, Dungannon

Inspected: March 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: St Malachy's Primary
Glencull** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 30.03.09**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 503-2306** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

| School Year | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year 1 Intake | 4 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| Enrolments | | | | | |
| Primary | 47 | 40 | 39 | 36 | 34 |
| Reception | 0 | 0 | 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):

97.8%

| | Primary & Reception | Nursery Unit | Special Unit |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| D. i. Number of Teachers (including the principal and part-time teachers): (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours) | 2.2 | 0 | 0 |
| ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): | 15.5 | NI PTR: 20.8 | |
| iii. Average Class Size: | 17 | | |
| iv. Class Size (Range): | 17 to 17 | | |
| v. Ancillary Support: Number of Hours Per Week : | | | |
| i. Clerical support: | | | 7.5 |
| ii. Official Making A Good Start Support: | | | 20 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | | | 13 |
| vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: | | | 2.9% |
| vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: | | | 11.8% |
| viii. Number of children who are not of statutory school age: | | | 0 |
| ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: | | | 2.9% |

**ST MALACHY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLENCULL, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE,
BT70 2DB (503-2306)**

St Malachy's Primary School is a small rural school situated approximately two miles from Ballygawley in the townland of Glencull. Almost all of the children come from the surrounding rural area. The current enrolment is 34 children. The school has identified approximately 12% of the children who require additional support with aspects of their learning; 3% of the children are entitled to free school meals.

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, as well as meetings with the children from year 6. Twenty-five families were issued with questionnaires; 17 (68%) of which were returned to the Department of Education (DE) with eight containing additional written comments. An analysis of the responses, and a summary of the written comments, was shared with the Principal and the chair of the Board of Governors (governors).

The children in year 6 talked enthusiastically about the many aspects of school life they enjoy and reported that they feel safe 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 very good. 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 very caring and supportive ethos and the quality of the relationships throughout the school; the exemplary behaviour of the children and the attractively presented learning environment throughout the school that is used to support learning and celebrate the children's achievements.

The school gives excellent attention to promoting health and well-being, including opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity, and has effective policies and programmes in place which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the dedicated leadership provided by the Principal who is well supported by the hard-working assistant teacher and the non-teaching staff;
- the high quality of the teaching observed which was mostly good, and on occasions outstanding;
- the good standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy; and
- the effective use of information and communication technology resources to support learning and teaching.

The area for improvement is:

- the need to develop further the process of self-evaluation and the methods of monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching through the recently established co-ordinator roles.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The inspection has identified an area for improvement which the school has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the school's progress on the area 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 staff.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The staff and children's toilet facilities are inadequate. The children's toilets, in particular, do not meet the needs of the children.
- The location of the school in close proximity to the main Ballygawley/Omagh road, and to the engineering yard adjacent to the school, present a safety risk to the children, teachers, parents and visitors to the school.
- At the time of the inspection there was no security system in place in the mobile classroom and library.
- There is extensive mould on the roof of the store room in the library.

Throughout the report a number of quantitative terms are used which may be interpreted as indicated below:

- 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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