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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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

**St Mary's Primary School
Maghery, Dungannon**

Inspected: November 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: St Mary's Primary** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 04/11/09**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 503-1164** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	10	9	10	9	11
Enrolments					
Primary	92	77	72	70	73
Reception	2	4	3	4	7
Nursery Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Special Unit	0	0	0	0	0
Irish Medium 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):

97.5%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit	Irish Medium Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers
(including the principal and part-time teachers): 4 0 0 0
(Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 1.26 NI PTR: 20.4
- iii. Average Class Size: 26
- iv. Class Size (Range): 21 to 32
- v. Ancillary Support:
Number of Hours **Per Week**:
- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| i. Clerical support: | 17.5 |
| ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support: | 20 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 0 |
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 3%
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 13%
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 16%
- x. Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09 who attained level 4 and above at English and mathematics: **English** 90% **Mathematics** 90%

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DUNGANNON, CO TYRONE, BT71 6PA (503-1164)

SCHOOL CONTEXT

St Mary's Primary School is situated in Saint Patrick's Parish, Loughgall in the village of Maghery, County Tyrone. The enrolment has remained steady over recent years and is currently 80. At the time of the inspection, approximately 16% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 13% were identified as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning.

FOCUS

The inspection focused on:

- the children's achievements and standards in literacy and numeracy;
- the quality of provision for learning; and
- the quality of leadership and management.

THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS AND CHILDREN

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 53 questionnaires issued to the parents, 26 (49%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE), and 13 of these contained additional written comments. All of the parental questionnaires indicated their appreciation of the school's work including the caring inclusive ethos, the progress made by the children in their learning, the high quality of pastoral care, and the dedication and commitment of the staff who implement many measures to ensure the school is an integral part of the local community. The very few issues raised were discussed with the Principal.

The inspectors also met with the year 6 children. The children talked in an articulate and very positive manner about their experiences at school, including their many opportunities for musical and sporting activities, and the rewards they receive for their good behaviour. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety or well-being.

PASTORAL CARE

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. Strengths of the provision include:

- the high expectations of the children in terms of their behaviour and the positive nature of the measures taken to achieve this;
- the very caring and supportive ethos; and
- the hard work of the teachers in ensuring the inclusive atmosphere and strong sense of community evident within the school.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. While these arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by DE, the following areas need to be addressed. The need to ensure:

- that the newly appointed governors are trained in child protection matters; and
- that updated training is provided for the newly appointed designated teacher for child protection matters.

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, through the provision of popular healthy school meals and a successful vegetable garden which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the overall quality of teaching, which in a significant minority of the lessons observed was very good;
- the satisfactory to very good standards achieved in literacy and numeracy by the large majority of the children by the end of year 7,
- the strong sense of community within the school, complemented well by the very good external links with a wide range of local community groups and the opportunities for the children to participate in a range of local sporting and musical activities ;
- the good management by the Principal of the extensive turnover of teaching staff over the past two years, allied to his appropriate vision for the deployment of the new teaching staff within an effective team;
- the good collation of a wide range of quantitative data on the children's achievements, including standardised test results and benchmarked key stage information; and
- the exemplary behaviour, and strong motivation of the children to succeed in their learning.

Areas for Improvement include:

- the need to improve further the standards achieved in literacy and numeracy by a minority of the children, including those in need of additional support, as part of the teaching within mainstream classes;
- the need to disseminate better the very good teaching observed; and
- the need to review the school development plan to ensure it meets fully the statutory regulations and to take account of the inspection findings.

In most of the areas inspected the quality of education provided in this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in learning and teaching which need to be addressed if the needs of all the learners are to be met more effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the organisation's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

It is appropriate that the employing authority, school governors and the staff are planning for, and managing, aspects related to the sustainability of the school provision in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff. These matters need to be resolved as soon as possible in the best interests of the children.

ACCOMMODATION/HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The electronic door security system was not functioning effectively during the inspection and needs to be repaired urgently.
- The gate at the back of the school should be locked during the school day.

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75%-90%
A majority	-	50%-74%
A significant minority	-	30%-49%
A minority	-	10%-29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

In assessing the various features of the provision, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

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