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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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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 Mary's Primary School
Stewartstown

Inspected: March 2007

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School:** St Mary's Primary School Stewartstown
 ii. **School Reference Number:** 5032692
 iii. **Date of Inspection:** W/B 26.3.07
 iv. **Nature of Inspection:** Short

B.

| School Year | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year 1 Intake | 14 | 12 | 13 | 17 | 17 |
| Enrolments | | | | | |
| Primary | 104 | 103 | 104 | 104 | 109 |
| Reception | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| Nursery Class/Classes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Special Unit | 7 | 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):

95.3%

- | | | Primary & Reception | Nursery Unit | Special Unit |
|-------|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| D. i. | Number of Teachers (including the principal and part-time teachers): (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours) | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| ii. | PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): | 19.6 | NI PTR: 20.5 | |
| iii. | Average Class Size: | 23.6 | | |
| iv. | Class Size (Range): | 21 to 28 | | |
| v. | Ancillary Support: Number of Hours Per Week: | | | |
| | i. Clerical support: | | 15 | |
| | ii. Official Making A Good Start Support: | | 20 | |
| | iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | | 115 | |
| vi. | Number of children with statements of special educational needs: | 5 | | |
| vii. | Number of children who are not of statutory school age: | 9 | | |
| viii. | Number of families in school | 74 | | |
| ix. | Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: | 33.63% | | |

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, STEWARTSTOWN, CO TYRONE (503-2692)

St Mary's Primary School is situated near the centre of Stewartstown in County Tyrone. The children come from the village and the surrounding rural areas. Just over 33% of the children are entitled to free school meals. The school has identified approximately 22% of the children as requiring additional learning support in English and mathematics.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care included the completion of confidential questionnaires by parents and a meeting with a representative from the Board of Governors (BoG) and a group of children from year 6. Prior to the inspection, 74 families were provided with questionnaires on the life and work of the school. Thirty five per cent of the parents responded to the questionnaire, with five of them providing additional written comments. All of the parents expressed strong support for the work of the school. The comments made by the parents have been shared with the BoG and the Principal.

The school has procedures in place which implement the guidance outlined in Department of Education (DE) Circular 1999/10, 'Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection' and in DE Circular 2003/13, 'Welfare and Protection of Pupils Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order'. The school is also implementing its procedures for the vetting of all personnel who are in a regulated position in accordance with DE Circulars 2006/06-09.

The school gives excellent attention to promoting health and well-being and has appropriate policies and programmes in place to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles including, a healthy break and awareness-raising information evenings for parents. There is evidence of commitment on the part of the staff to promoting healthy eating and to improving the children's eating habits through effective and continuous monitoring of practice. There are good opportunities for all children to participate in a range of physical activities before, during and after school. The children demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of the importance of making healthy life choices.

The strengths of the school include:

- the caring and supportive ethos;
- the excellent quality of the provision for pastoral care;
- the excellent working relationships at all levels throughout the school;
- the exemplary behaviour of the children and their positive attitudes to learning;
- the well-maintained, attractive and stimulating learning environment;
- the quality of the teaching which was always very good and at times excellent;
- the hard-working and dedicated teachers;
- the valuable contribution made by the non-teaching staff to the work of the school;

- the effective use of Information and Communication Technology to enhance teaching and support the children's learning;
- the good standards reached by the majority of the children by the end of year 7;
- the high quality of the school's processes for self-evaluation;
- the excellent leadership provided by the Principal and her commitment to the children and to the whole school community;
- the extended use of the school premises by the community to facilitate a range of sporting and educational activities; and
- the strong support of the BoG, parents and wider community.

The quality of education in this school is very good. In the areas inspected the school has major strengths in its educational and pastoral provision and the educational and pastoral needs of the children are being well met. The parents can have confidence in the school's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow up 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. |

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