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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

**St Mary's Primary School
Teemore**

Inspected: March 2008

**ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, KINOUGHTRAGH, TEEMORE, ENNISKILLEN,
CO FERMANAGH, BT92 9QF (203-6181)**

St Mary's Primary School is situated in a pleasant rural setting in the hamlet of Teemore, 18 miles from the county town of Enniskillen. The enrolment, which currently sits at 62, has remained steady over the past five years; most of the children come from the surrounding area.

Approximately 2% of the children are entitled to free school meals; the school has identified around 23% of the children to be in need of additional support in aspects of their learning.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care included the completion of confidential questionnaires by the staff and parents, and meetings with the Board of Governors (governors) and with a group of children from year 6. Prior to the inspection, 41 families received questionnaires on the life and work of the school. Twenty (49%) parents forwarded responses to the Department of Education (DE), of which eleven included additional written comments. Almost all of the parents expressed strong support for the work of the school. They commended, particularly, the good quality of education provided, the nurturing ethos and the commitment of the Principal and the staff. The inspection findings confirm these views. The small numbers of concerns raised by individual parents were discussed with the governors and the Principal.

The children reported that they feel safe and secure within the school and know what to do in the event of a concern.

The teaching staff responded through an on-line questionnaire; the responses were wholly positive, and included written comments on the quality of the school ethos and the supportive learning environment.

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 commitment and vision of the staff for the development of pastoral care in the school; and
- the excellent working relationships and the clear sense of mutual respect throughout the school.

The school gives excellent attention to promoting health and well-being, including opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity. There are effective policies and programmes in place, for example provision of a fruit break and water, links with external agencies and displays, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The school has significant strengths, which include:

- the very good quality of the school ethos which promotes effectively the children's behaviour, confidence, self-esteem, inclusion, health and well-being;
- the hard-work and commitment of the staff to provide a wide range of learning experiences for the children within the composite classes, leading to the development of well-motivated learners who are achieving standards in line with their ability;
- the early identification, of children who experience difficulties in aspects of their work and the quality of the individual support they receive;
- the well-embedded culture of self-evaluation to promote ongoing school improvement;
- the Principal's vision, effective leadership and management, including her commitment to the professional development and well-being of the teaching and support staff; and
- the strong support of the governors and parents for the school and the central role it holds within the community.

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

No follow-up inspection is required.

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 the staff.

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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