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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

St Trea's Maintained Primary School Ballyronan

Inspected: March 2007

**ST TREA'S MAINTAINED PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYRONAN,
MAGHERAFELT, CO LONDONDERRY, BT45 6LL (303-2185)**

St Trea's Maintained Primary School is situated approximately two miles from the village of Ballyronan. The enrolment has fallen from 90 children in 2004/05 to its current figure of 84; an increase is projected for the 2007/08 school year. The children come from within a radius of 10 miles. Just over 10% of the children are entitled to free school meals.

The high quality of pastoral care is a significant strength of the school. A secure and supportive environment is provided for the children in which they are valued, feel very happy and at ease. The school has procedures in place for pastoral care and child protection, which implement fully the guidance outlined in the relevant Department of Education Circulars. The governors, parents and children are fully aware of the procedures; they have had the opportunity to feed into a range of helpful policies, which guide the work of the school. These policies and the effective pastoral care systems underpin the excellent working relationships and the effective learning and teaching, which take place both within and outside the classroom.

The strengths of the school include:

- the excellent ethos and the very good working relationships that exist at all levels;
- the stimulating learning environment and the excellent quality of the displays throughout the school;
- the strong commitment of all teaching and non-teaching staff, to the children's education, development and well-being;
- the attention given by the school to encouraging the children to adopt healthy lifestyles;
- the exemplary behaviour of the children, the high levels of motivation which they display in their work, and the extent of their progress and attainment;
- the high quality of the teaching observed and the match between the work planned and the children's needs and abilities;
- the commitment of the teachers to reflect on and improve their practice, particularly in relation to the development of provision for play-based learning and information and communication technology (ICT);
- the ongoing development of a systematic process of monitoring and evaluation which promotes a culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement;
- the strong focus on children's learning throughout the school and, in particular the emphasis placed on improving the children's literacy skills;
- the wide range of extra-curricular activities provided for the children which enrich their learning experiences;

- the excellent use of ICT to support learning in all classes and in particular, the effective use of the interactive whiteboard in supporting children with special educational needs;
- the high standards achieved by the children in ICT;
- the outstanding leadership of the Principal, including, his vision, commitment and enthusiasm;
- the overall standards attained by the children; and
- the strong support of parents, the Board of Governors and the high standing of the school in the community.

The Principal and staff have developed an effective approach to self-evaluation. They create and maintain an environment that promotes continuous improvement leading to good learning and teaching, and high standards of achievement and behaviour.

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 the 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.

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