

*eti*

*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**

**Straidhavern Primary School  
Crumlin**

**Inspected: December 2009**

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

## BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Straidhavern Primary  
Crumlin** iii. **Date of Inspection: 01/12/2009**  
 ii. **School Reference Number: 301-0879** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	21	18	7	17	14
<b>Enrolments</b>					
Primary	106	90	56	71	61
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
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): 94%      **NI Avg Att: 94.9%**

- |                                                                                                                             | <b>Primary &amp;<br/>Reception</b> | <b>Nursery<br/>Unit</b> | <b>Special<br/>Unit</b> | <b>Irish Medium<br/>Unit</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| D. i. Number of Teachers<br>(including the principal and part-time teachers):<br>(Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours) | 4.6                                | 0                       | 0                       | 0                            |
| ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio):                                                                                              | 13.3                               | NI PTR: 20.4            |                         |                              |
| iii. Average Class Size:                                                                                                    | 15                                 |                         |                         |                              |
| iv. Class Size (Range):                                                                                                     | 14 to 18                           |                         |                         |                              |
| v. Ancillary Support:<br>Number of Hours <b>Per Week</b> :                                                                  |                                    |                         |                         |                              |
| i. Clerical support:                                                                                                        |                                    |                         | 25                      |                              |
| ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support:                                                                           |                                    |                         | 30                      |                              |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support:                                                                 |                                    |                         | 30                      |                              |
| vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs:                                                    |                                    |                         |                         | 1.5%                         |
| vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register:                                                            |                                    |                         |                         | 15.6%                        |
| viii. Number of children who are <b>not</b> of statutory school age:                                                        |                                    |                         |                         | 1                            |
| ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals:                                                                   |                                    |                         |                         | 6%                           |
| x. Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09 who attained level 4 and above at English and mathematics:  |                                    |                         | <b>English</b><br>62.5% | <b>Mathematics</b><br>62.5%  |

## **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

Straidhavern Primary School is situated at Nutt's Corner, Crumlin in County Antrim. Most of the children are from the local area. The enrolment in recent years has fluctuated and now stands at 61. At the time of the inspection, 6% of the children were entitled to free school meals and almost 16% of the children 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, GOVERNORS AND CHILDREN**

The arrangements for the inspection included an opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete confidential questionnaires prior to the inspection. Of the 46 questionnaires issued to the parents, 18 (39%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE) and eight contained additional written comments. All of the parental responses were highly affirmative, indicating very strong support for the work and life of the school and highlighting, in particular, the support given to the children with special educational needs and the caring ethos within the school. The teachers' responses were all very positive, commenting on the school's value within the local community.

A representative from the Board of Governors (governors) met with the inspection team on the first day of the inspection and expressed his appreciation for the work of the Principal and the staff, the children's positive attitude to learning and being well-informed about the school development planning process.

The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 and 7 children; they talked positively about the care provided by the staff, and their involvement in a range of after-school activities. They reported that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is very good. Among the strengths are: the exemplary behaviour of the children who exhibit a clear sense of loyalty to the school; the contribution made by the staff to promote a supportive and inclusive environment for learning; and the community ethos evident within the school.

## **CHILD PROTECTION**

The school has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by DE.

## **HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity through, for example, the provision of the healthy break scheme and appropriate consultation carried out with the children which encourage them to adopt healthy lifestyles.

## **CONCLUSION**

The strengths of the school include:

- the good standards attained by the majority of the children in literacy and numeracy;
- the quality of the teaching, which was good or very good in most of the lessons observed;
- the well-embedded culture of self-evaluation which informs the school development planning process;
- the very good quality of the pastoral care provision;
- the quality of the provision for the children who require additional support in their learning; and
- the enthusiastic and effective leadership of the Principal whose commitment to school improvement sets the tone for the work of the school.

An area for improvement is:

- the need for the staff to work more collaboratively together to ensure greater consistency in the development of numeracy across the school.

In the areas inspected, the quality of the education provided by this school is good. The school has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral 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, 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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2010

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website:  
[www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk)

