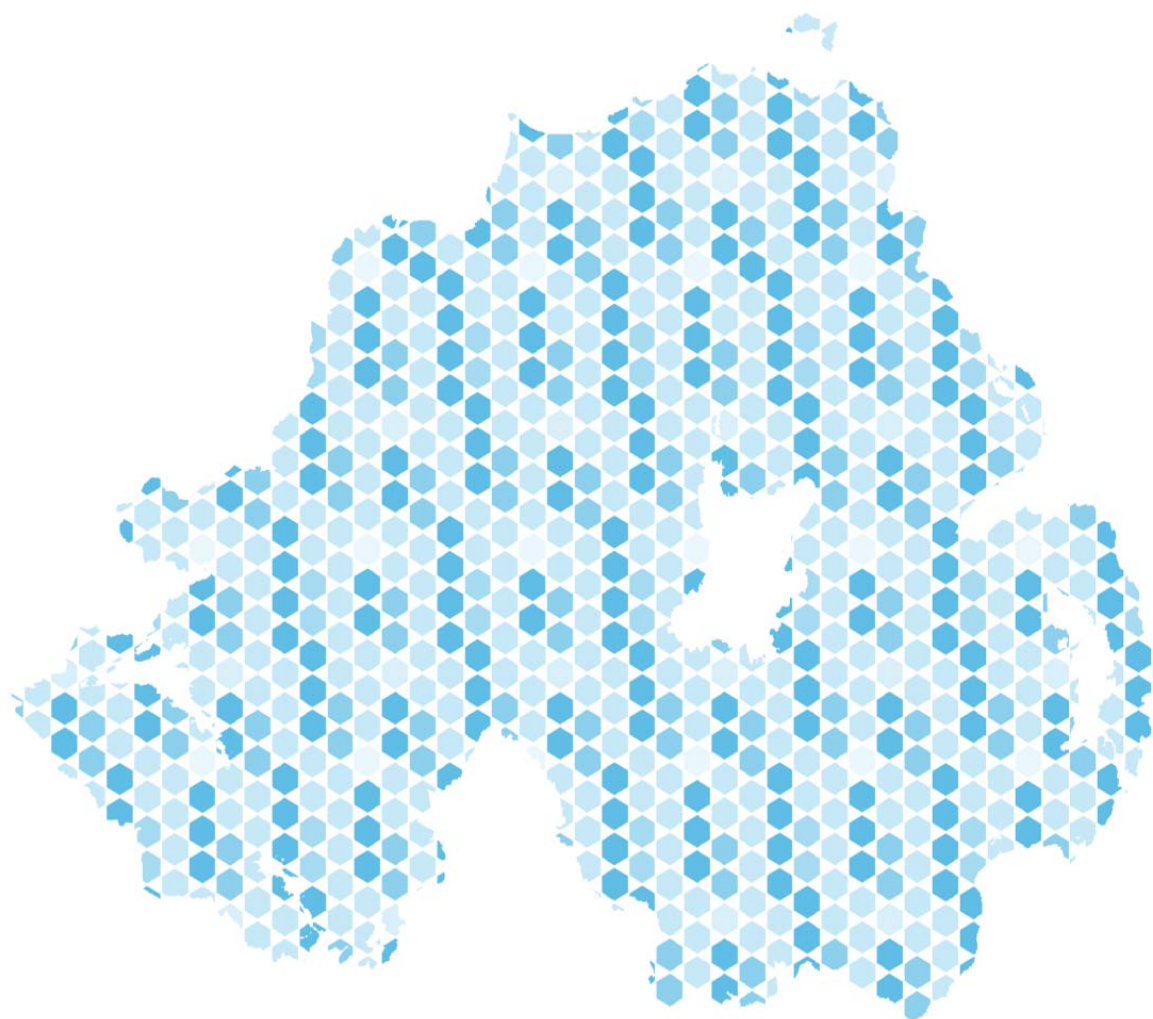


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

The Drelincourt Primary  
School, Armagh

Report of an Inspection  
in May 2010

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, the Inspectorate 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: The Drelincourt Primary School, Armagh**      iii. **Date of Inspection: 02/06/2010**  
 ii. **School Reference Number: 504-6241**      iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	7	10	8	4	5
<b>Enrolments</b>					
Primary	28	30	23	19	15
Reception	3	1	1	0	2
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):      95.2%      **NI Avg Att: 94.9%**
- |  | Primary & Reception | Nursery Unit | Special Unit | Irish Medium Unit |
|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|
- D. i. Number of Teachers  
 (including the principal and part-time teachers):      2.15      0      0      0  
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio):      1:8      NI PTR: 20.4
- iii. Average Class Size:      8
- iv. Class Size (Range):      6 to 11
- v. Ancillary Support:  
 Number of Hours **Per Week:**
- |                                                             |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| i. Clerical support:                                        | 6  |
| ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support:           | 20 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 2  |
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs:      0
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register:      0
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age:      2
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals:      17.6%
- xi. Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09 who attained level 4 and above in English and mathematics:      **English** N/A      **Mathematics** N/A

## **THE DRELINCOURT PRIMARY SCHOOL, ARMAGH, BT60 1EE (504-6241)**

### **SCHOOL CONTEXT**

The Drelincourt Primary School is a Church of Ireland maintained school situated in the Ballinahone area in the city of Armagh. The enrolment in the school has fluctuated over recent years and currently stands at 17; this includes two reception age children. At the time of the inspection, approximately 17.6% of the children in the school were entitled to free school meals. There are currently no children with special educational needs.

### **THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS AND GOVERNORS**

The arrangements for the inspection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 14 questionnaires issued to the parents in the school; seven (50%) were returned to Inspection Services Branch, including six which contained an additional written comment. Almost all of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life; reference was made to the high quality of education the children receive, the approachable and hard-working teachers and support staff and the caring ethos.

Three teachers and four support staff completed the on-line questionnaire; all staff included written comments. The responses were all very positive.

A letter of support from the Board of Governors (governors) for the staff and the work of the school was sent to the Department of Education (DE) prior to the inspection. In addition, the Chair of governors met with the inspection team on the first day of the inspection. He reiterated the sentiments made in the letter of support and praised in particular the child-centred ethos within the school.

### **PASTORAL CARE**

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is outstanding. Among the strengths are:

- the very caring, supportive and inclusive ethos;
- the excellent working relationships at all levels;
- the strong pastoral dimension in the curriculum which takes account of the children's ideas and opinions;
- the interesting and varied extra curricular activities including swimming, music, cooking, French lessons, visits to places of interest and visitors to the school, and
- the attractive learning environment, supporting learning and celebrating success.

### **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 outstanding attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, through the opportunities for practical cookery in class and links with local food producers, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

### **The strengths of the school include:**

- the strong family and community ethos, characterised by the excellent working relationships at all levels and the children's exemplary behaviour;
- the very good standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy which are in line with their ability;
- the quality of the teaching observed, the majority of which was very good or better and in a small number of lessons was outstanding;
- the broad range of curricular and extra-curricular activities provided for the children;
- the dedication and vision of the Principal who promotes a strong sense of collegiality amongst the hard-working teaching, learning support and non-teaching staff, and
- the effective links made with other schools and the wider community, and the very strong support of the parents and governors for the life and work of the school.

### **The area for improvement is the need to:**

- develop further the process of self-evaluation in order to inform more fully the School Development Plan.

## CONCLUSION

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the 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 organisation's progress on the areas for improvement.

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.

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