



*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

**St Colman's Primary School
Lambeg**

Inspected: February 2008

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: St Colman's Primary Lambeg** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 06.02.08**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 403-3307** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Year 1 Intake	37	39	41	40	29
Enrolments					
Primary	353	332	319	316	301
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Class/Classes	0	0	0	0	0
Special Unit	25	26	23	22	24

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):

95.5%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers):
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)

12	0	2
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- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 21.5 NI PTR: 20.8

- iii. Average Class Size:

- iv. Class Size (Range): 18 to 32

- v. Ancillary Support:

Number of Hours **Per Week**:

- | | |
|---|------|
| i. Clerical support: | 37 |
| ii. Official Making A Good Start Support: | 25 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 27.5 |

- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 10%

- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 17%

- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0

- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 9.97%

ST COLMAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, LAMBEG, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT27 4QS (403-3307)

St Colman's Primary School is situated in Lambeg on the outskirts of the city of Lisburn. Nearly all of the children attending the school come from the surrounding area. The school's enrolment currently stands at 301 which includes 24 in the two units catering for children with moderate learning difficulties (MLD). Just under 10% of the children are entitled to free school meals.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. Of the 124 questionnaires issued to the parents; 76 (60%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including 47 which contained additional written comments. All of the questionnaires and written comments indicated high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life. The responses highlighted, in particular, the excellent leadership of the Principal, the caring ethos, the high standards achieved, and the hard-working and conscientious staff. The inspection findings endorse the favourable comments made by the parents, the teachers and the children. The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 children who reported that they felt safe in school and knew what to do in the event of a concern. They talked enthusiastically about the many aspects of school life, including the extra-curricular activities, that they enjoyed.

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 to establishing a very caring and supportive ethos and to the ongoing development of the pastoral provision;
- the effective ways of communicating with parents; and
- the very good behaviour of the children, and the systems adopted by the school to promote positive behaviour.

The school gives very good 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 "Fruity Fridays", food tasting sessions and the positive reinforcement of health messages, which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the excellent leadership of the Principal who is committed strongly to ensuring the welfare of his staff, ongoing school improvement, and meeting the individual needs of the children;
- the children's high level of motivation and engagement in their learning;
- the very good or excellent teaching observed in the majority of lessons;

- the high quality of the school's arrangements for self-evaluation leading to improvement, particularly the effective involvement of the co-ordinators in giving written and oral feedback to teachers after lesson observations;
- the high standards achieved by most of the children; and
- the excellent quality of the school development plan which identifies appropriate priorities for action, in particular, the further use of the wide range of assessment information already available in the school.

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

No follow-up inspection is required.

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