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*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

Area-Based Inspection

Ballymena Nursery School

February 2009

AREA-BASED INSPECTION - BALLYMENA AREA 2009: STRATEGIC PLANNING, COHERENCE IN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an area-based inspection in Ballymena Nursery School during February 2009.

The strengths include:

- the very good management of the transition process at the beginning and end of the pre-school year, and the quality of the information on the children's achievements which is shared with the primary schools;
- the outstanding arrangements to evaluate the quality of the learning experiences which involves the staff, governors and the parents;
- the outstanding quality of the arrangements to ensure inclusion and participation, including the collaboration with other agencies to secure support for those children with additional needs;
- the very good quality of the care, guidance and support provided for the children; and
- the very good quality of the professional development which the Principal provides for the staff.

An area for improvement is the need to strengthen the curricular links with those primary schools to which the children will transfer, in order to ensure continuity and progression in the children's learning experiences.

While only one specific area for improvement has been identified in this report, the composite report from the area-based inspection raises broader issues which need to be addressed by all of the schools and organisations visited.

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