

*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**



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of an Inspection**

**Holy Rosary Nursery School  
Belfast**

**Inspected: February 2009**

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON HOLY ROSARY NURSERY SCHOOL,  
BELFAST**

**1. Details of Children**

<b>Number of children:</b>	<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Class 2</b>
Attending full-time	26	24
Attending part-time	0	0
Under 3 years of age*	5	2
With a statement of special educational needs	0	0
Without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs	0	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2**	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4**	0	0
With English as an additional language	9	8

\* On 1 July.

\*\* The stages refer to those set out in the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of special educational needs.

Percentage qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 or 2.	22%
Average attendance for the previous year.	91.4%

**2. Duration of Sessions**

<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time: am</b>	<b>Part-time: pm</b>
4½ hours	N/A	N/A

**3. Details of Staff**

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>
Teachers	2	0
Nursery Assistants	0	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	2	0

<b>Number of: ***</b>	
Students	6
Trainees	1

\*\*\* Total placements since September of current year

**4. Parental Questionnaires (to be completed by Inspection Services Branch)**

Number issued	52
Number returned	57.7%
Number of written comments	13

**HOLY ROSARY NURSERY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT7 3DB (113-6289)**  
**INSPECTED: 25 FEBRUARY 2009**

1. Holy Rosary Nursery School is situated off the Ormeau Road in Belfast. Since the last inspection, a new assistant teacher has been appointed. In addition, the accommodation has been improved significantly; the entrance area has been extended and the children's toilets refurbished. The school operates an early morning session to facilitate working parents. There has been a significant increase in the number of children attending for whom English is an additional language.

2. The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care and child protection included the opportunity for the parents, the staff and the Board of Governors to complete a confidential questionnaire prior to the inspection. A majority of the parents responded to the questionnaire and 13 made additional written comments. Those who responded indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the overall provision and appreciation of the caring environment, the friendly, approachable staff, the outdoor play facilities and the provision of weekly book bags. The responses from the management and the staff were very positive about the work of the nursery and the relationships between the management and the staff. All of the responses have been shared with the staff and management of the school.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the nursery is very good. Among the strengths are the very good working relationships between the staff and the children which promote the children's confidence and self-esteem.

4. The nursery has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Department.

5. The nursery gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The children are provided with a healthy break and have good opportunities for energetic play.

**6. The main strengths within the nursery school's educational and pastoral provision are as follows:**

- the well resourced, stimulating and attractive learning environment created by the staff;
- the positive ethos based on the good working relationships between the children and the staff;
- the effective staff interactions which promote the children's language and learning, to good effect;
- the excellent promotion of the children's social skills and independence and the children's high levels of engagement and motivation in their play;
- the very good opportunities for the children to learn in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular features include the children's ability to co-operate and play imaginatively, the high levels of interest in books and early-marking and the promotion of mathematical language; and

- the school demonstrates a strong commitment to inclusion; the staff have worked very hard to ensure there is very good integration of children from a diverse range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

**7. The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following are the most important areas that need attention.**

- Improve the assessment methods to ensure there is sufficient information to track the children's progress effectively and use this information more effectively to identify support for those children with specific additional needs.
- Continue to develop the planning to ensure progression in outdoor play and a fuller integration of music and rhyme into the daily programme.

8. The nursery has a development plan which identifies some relevant areas for improvement; it should now be amended to reflect the inspection findings. Although the staff regularly evaluate aspects of their weekly work there is a need to develop stronger self-evaluative processes to guide more effectively their commitment to continuous improvement.

9. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the nursery school is good. The nursery has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the organisation has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the progress on the areas for improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

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 DE website: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.