

*eti*

*The Education and Training Inspectorate -  
Promoting Improvement*



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

*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**

**Carhill Controlled Integrated Primary School  
Coleraine**

**Inspected: November 2007**



**CARHILL CONTROLLED INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, CARHILL ROAD,  
GARVAGH, COLERAINE, CO LONDONDERRY, BT51 5PQ**

Carhill Controlled Integrated Primary School is situated near the village of Garvagh. Over the last four years the enrolment has risen steadily from 40 to its current figure of 52. The children come from within a radius of 20 miles of the surrounding rural area. Just under one-third of the children are entitled to receive free school meals. Fifteen children have been identified as requiring support with aspects of their learning.

The pastoral care arrangements included the opportunity for the parents and the teaching staff to complete confidential questionnaires prior to the inspection, as well as meetings with the children from the year 6 class. Thirty-six questionnaires were issued to the parents; 28% of these were returned to the Department of Education (DE), of which two contained written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaires indicated strong support for the staff and the school, and commented on the effective communication with the parents. The views arising from the written responses have been shared with the Principal.

There are major strengths in the quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection. 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 helpful policies, which guide the work of the school. These policies and the effective pastoral care systems underpin learning and teaching and the good working relationships both within and outside the classroom.

The children talked positively about the support they receive from their teachers and they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their well-being.

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 'Brighter Bites', the Health Promoting Schools award and an 'Early Birds' Breakfast Club, all of which encourage the children to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

The strengths of the school include:

- the very positive and caring ethos created by the hard-working and dedicated staff to support each child's learning and to develop their self-esteem;
- the good behaviour of the children who respond well to the teaching and the effective arrangements for celebrating their achievements;
- the quality of the teaching observed, which ranged from good to excellent;
- the ongoing development of a systematic process of monitoring and evaluation that promotes a culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement;
- the strong support of the parents and the high standing of the school in the community; and

- the dedication, enthusiasm and vision of the Principal who provides good leadership for the school and for the staff.

Areas for improvement:

The school's effective self-evaluation of the provision has identified the need to:

- continue to monitor and build on the performance data available, so that it informs the current planning and assessment methods in order to raise standards further.

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

No follow-inspection is required.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- The school's accommodation has significant deficiencies which requires the use of a local school, and church hall or local sports club facilities for physical education and other activities.
- The school site is extremely restricted and single lane vehicular access along a narrow avenue presents a significant hazard.
- The safety of the children and others is further compromised by the inability to provide separate areas for pedestrians and traffic within the school site.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2007

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.