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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

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

Doagh Primary School
Ballyclare

Inspected: October 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Doagh Primary Ballyclare** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 12/10/09**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 301-0754** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	15	12	4	10	8
Enrolments					
Primary	98	94	84	77	73
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
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):

95.3%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit	Irish Medium Unit
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- | | | | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|----|-------|
| D. i. | Number of Teachers
(including the principal and part-time teachers):
(Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours) | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ii. | PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): | 14.6 | NI PTR: 20.4 | | |
| iii. | Average Class Size: | 18 | | | |
| iv. | Class Size (Range): | 16 to 21 | | | |
| v. | Ancillary Support:
Number of Hours Per Week : | | | 15 | |
| | i. Clerical support: | | | 15 | |
| | ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support: | | | 10 | |
| | iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | | | 10 | |
| vi. | Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: | | | | 0.01% |
| vii. | Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: | | | | 14% |
| viii. | Number of children who are not of statutory school age: | | | | 0 |
| ix. | Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: | | | | 8% |
| x. | Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09 who attained level 4 and above at English and mathematics: | English
79.19% | Mathematics
71% | | |

DOAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYCLARE, CO ANTRIM, BT39 0QL (301-0754)

SCHOOL CONTEXT

Doagh Primary School is situated in a rural area, approximately two miles from Ballyclare and in close proximity to two other small primary schools. The enrolment has declined steadily over recent years and is currently 73. At the time of the inspection, approximately 8% of the children were entitled to free school meals and 14% of the children were on the special needs register.

FOCUS

The inspection focused on:

- the children's achievements and standards in literacy and numeracy;
- the quality of provision for learning; and
- the quality of leadership and management.

THE VIEWS OF THE PARENTS, TEACHERS, GOVERNORS AND CHILDREN

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 55 questionnaires issued to the parents, 28 (51%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including 12 which contained an additional written comment. Nearly all of the parental questionnaires and the written comments indicated high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life. The teachers' responses were wholly positive.

The inspectors also met with the year 6 children; they talked enthusiastically about their experiences in school, the supportive staff and the range of extra-curricular activities provided. The children are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety and well-being.

The views of the parents, the teachers and the children have been shared with the Principal and the Board of Governors (governors).

PASTORAL CARE

The provision for pastoral care within the school is very good. Among the strengths are the positive working relationships at all levels, the caring and supportive ethos within the school and the emphasis placed on raising the children's self-esteem and confidence. During the inspection, the behaviour of the children was very good.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect broadly the guidance issued by DE but the following minor areas need to be addressed: the school should ensure that a member of the governors assumes the role of Designated Governor for child protection matters, and that all governors sitting on interview/appointment panels receive specific training on the recruitment and vetting of staff.

HEALTHY EATING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The school gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, the availability of small play equipment at lunch time and the development of appropriate themes and topics through class activities which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the children's engagement in their learning, their interest and motivation, and their ability to work collaboratively;
- the quality of the teaching, which was good or better in most of the lessons observed;
- the very good quality of the pastoral care provision and the attractive, purposeful learning environment created by the teaching and non-teaching staff;
- the good use made of information and communication technology to support teaching and learning; and
- the good start made in the promotion of active approaches to learning, including the development of play-based learning.

The areas for improvement include:

- the need for more rigorous analysis of all available performance data to inform the school's development plan, to track the children's progress more effectively and to ensure that all the children are achieving in line with their ability; and
- the provision of more clearly focused curricular leadership by the Principal and the management team to raise the overall standards of the children's attainment in literacy and numeracy.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this school is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in standards, and leadership and management which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

It will be important that the employing authority, governors and 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.

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, Inspectors relate their evaluations to six descriptors as set out below:

DESCRIPTOR
Outstanding
Very Good
Good
Satisfactory
Inadequate
Unsatisfactory

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