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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

**Dundela Infants' School
Belfast**

Inspected: November 2007

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A.
- | | |
|---|--|
| i. School: Dundela Infants' School
Belfast | iii. Date of Inspection: W/B 05.11.07 |
| ii. School Reference Number: 101-6242 | iv. Nature of Inspection: Short |

B.

School Year	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08
Year 1 Intake	66	76	66	74	72
Enrolments					
Primary	232	221	208	221	212
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Class/Classes	52	52	52	52	52
Special 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):

94.81%

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) | 10 | 2 | 0 |
| | ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): | 21.2 | NI PTR: 20.8 | |
| | iii. Average Class Size: | 23.5 | | |
| | iv. Class Size (Range): | 22 to 25 | | |
| | v. Ancillary Support: | | | |
| | Number of Hours Per Week : | | | |
| | i. Clerical support: | | 30 | |
| | ii. Official Making A Good Start Support: | | 45 | |
| | iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | | 111.5 | |
| | vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: | 1.88% | | |
| | vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: | 22.16% | | |
| | viii. Number of children who are not of statutory school age: | 0 | | |
| | ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: | 13.21% | | |

DUNDELA INFANTS' SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT4 3BL (101-6242)

Dundela Infants' Primary School is situated in East Belfast. Most of the children come from the immediate area. The school caters for children in years 1 to 3; most then transfer to Strandtown Primary School for years 4 to 7. Approximately 13% 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. One hundred and six questionnaires were issued to the parents; 40% were returned to Department of Education (DE) and 11 contained additional written comments. The responses from the parental questionnaires indicated that the parents support the work of the school and appreciate the care and support provided for the children. Almost all of the teachers responded to the online questionnaire with seven additional written comments. The main concerns expressed by the teachers included issues in relation to the provision for special educational needs. The Education and Training Inspectorate has reported to the Principal and a representative of the Board of Governors (governors) about the main issues emerging from the questionnaires and the discussions.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection has important strengths. The school has procedures in place which implement the guidance outlined in the relevant DE Circulars and has identified appropriately a few areas for improvement which it is currently implementing. Among the strengths are the effective ways of communicating with parents. The areas for improvement identified include the need to update and review the child protection training for staff.

The school's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has important strengths, with attention paid to the development and implementation of healthy eating and physical activity programmes to encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The inspection confirms that the school has identified appropriately its priorities for future development and improvement as evidenced by the self-evaluation proforma completed by the school prior to the inspection and by the school development plans (SDP) and associated action plans. In order to meet fully the requirements of the SDP Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005, the school should include an assessment of the nature and quality of the arrangements for health and well-being practices within the school.

The strengths of the school include:

- the effective communication between the school and the parents;
- the overall quality of the teaching observed;
- the good standards achieved by many of the children in literacy;
- the effective use of qualitative and quantitative data to track the children's progress; and
- the good start made to the process of self-evaluation.

The areas for improvement include the need to:

- develop further the provision for children with specific learning needs;
- clarify the roles and responsibilities of subject coordinators and other middle managers as identified in the SDP; and
- strengthen the curricular links between the nursery unit and the primary school.

In the areas inspected, the school has important strengths in most of its educational provision. The inspection has identified minor areas for improvement which the school has the capacity to address.

The school's progress on the areas for improvement will be followed-up by the District Inspector.

THE NURSERY UNIT IN DUNDELA INFANTS PRIMARY SCHOOL

1. The nursery unit is a double unit situated within Dundela Infants School. The children come from a wide surrounding area. Since the last inspection there have been a number of staffing changes.

2. The parents, staff and management group were given opportunities to express their views about the nursery through the inspection questionnaires. Those who responded generally expressed satisfaction with the provision. The few issues raised have been shared with the staff.

3. The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the nursery is good. The nursery has appropriate policies and procedures for child protection that comply with Department of Education Circulars and guidance. The inspection evidence indicates that these policies and procedures are implemented effectively and consistently to safeguard the children.

4. The school's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has strengths, with a developing commitment to encourage the children to eat healthily and be physically active.

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

- the children are settled and well behaved. They are developing their social skills and becoming increasingly independent;
- the daily timetable is organised to provide a good balance between lengthy free play and appropriate group activities;
- the staff have worked hard in recent months to bring about improvement in the quality of the learning environment both indoors and outdoors. These changes have significantly improved the opportunities for children to explore materials and develop a wider range of learning skills;
- the wide range of activities provides satisfactory opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum. On the day of the inspection, particular strengths noted were the good opportunities for the children to make music, develop their fine and gross motor skills, investigate the natural environment and engage in creative activities. There were some good examples of concentrated and purposeful play;
- effective use is made of an extensive range of visitors to the nursery to enhance further the children's learning; and
- the staff demonstrate a commitment to developing and improving the work of the nursery.

6. The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following are the most important areas that need attention:

- leadership, including the roles and responsibilities of the staff, needs to be more clearly defined at all levels to ensure consistency of good practice and to bring about the necessary improvements within the nursery;
- the interaction between the staff and the children needs to be more consistently of a high level; and
- the staff should continue to develop the planning and assessment methods in collaboration with each other and the primary school to ensure there is appropriate progression in the children's learning and the support for individuals is well matched to their needs.

7. The staff make some useful evaluations of their weekly programme; they are at the early stages of developing a systematic approach to self-evaluation. The staff should continue to build on the recent improvements within the nursery by drawing up a suitable development plan and associated actions to be taken, to bring about the improvements identified during the inspection.

8. The nursery has strengths in many aspects of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified a few important areas for improvement which need to be addressed to meet effectively the needs of all the children.

The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor and report on the nursery's progress in addressing these areas for improvement.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON DUNDELA NURSERY UNIT

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	26	26
Attending part-time	0	0
Under 3 years of age*	0	0
With statement of SEN**	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4***	1	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2***	5	4
With English as an additional language	0	0

* On 1 July.

** Special Educational Needs.

*** 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.	9
Average attendance for the previous year.	90.54%

2. Duration of Sessions

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm
4½ hours	-	-

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Teachers	1	2
Nursery Assistants	1	2
Qualified Nursery Assistants	1	2

Number of: ****	
Students	1
Trainees	1

**** Total placements since September of current year

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

Number issued	52
Percentage returned	29%
Number of written comments	6

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