

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

**Hazelbank Primary School
Aughafatten, Ballymena**

Inspected: February 2008

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Hazelbank Primary**iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 04.02.08**
 Aughafatten, Ballymena
 ii. **School Reference Number: 301-6444**iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

| School Year | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Year 1 Intake | 10 | 6 | 12 | 12 | 7 |
| Enrolments | | | | | |
| Primary | 98 | 88 | 94 | 105 | 99 |
| Reception | 2 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nursery Class/Classes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 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):97.3%

Primary & Reception **Nursery Unit** **Special Unit**

- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers):5.6 0 0
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio):17.7 NI PTR: 20.8
- iii. Average Class Size:19.8
- iv. Class Size (Range):15 to 23
- v. Ancillary Support:
 Number of Hours **Per Week**:
- i. Clerical support:25
- ii. Official Making A Good
 Start Support:20
- iii. Additional hours of other
 classroom assistant support:0
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs:0%
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register:10%
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age:0
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals:7%

**HAZELBANK PRIMARY SCHOOL, AUGHAFATTEN, BALLYMENA,
CO ANTRIM, BT42 4LP (301-6444)**

Hazelbank Primary School is located in an idyllic rural landscape near Slemish, County Antrim. The children come from the surrounding rural area. Approximately 7% of the children are entitled to free school meals.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care included the completion of confidential questionnaires by the parents and staff and a meeting with a group of children from year 6. Sixty-eight per cent of the parents responded to the questionnaire, with 15 recording additional written comments. The majority of the parents expressed strong support for the work of the school; they commended, particularly, the caring ethos and the dedicated Principal and staff. The children spoke confidently and positively of their experiences at school, including the extra-curricular activities and the educational visits. They were aware of how they should behave, and they knew where to seek help if they had a concern.

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 Department of Education Circulars and has identified appropriately a few areas for development, which it is currently implementing. Among the strengths are:

- the excellent working relationships throughout the school;
- the children's participation in a wide range of extended-curricular provision; and
- the contribution made by all the staff to the children's well-being and their learning experiences.

The few areas for improvement include the need:

- to update and review the child protection training for staff and governors; and
- to ensure that the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection are disseminated directly to new parents upon their child's entry to the school, and at least once every two years to all parents.

The school gives excellent 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, the health promoting school status, the meaningful links with a food retailer which promote a variety of food experiences for the children and the ready access to drinking water, which encourages the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the positive and caring ethos which promotes effectively the children's confidence, self-esteem and excellent behaviour;
- the quality of the teaching observed which ranged from very good to excellent;
- the appropriate focus on developing further the children's collaborative learning;

- the good standards achieved by the majority of the children;
- the very good quality of the learning experiences for the children throughout the school; and
- the leadership of the teaching Principal, who focuses appropriately on promoting improvements in learning and teaching through effective team-work.

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-up inspection is required.

Throughout the report a number of quantitative terms are used which may 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% |

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- A privacy barrier is required in the boys' toilets.
- The door to the additional learning support room needs to open into the room and not into the main corridor.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2008

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 or may be obtained from the Inspection Services Branch, Department of Education, Rathgael House, 43 Balloo Road, Bangor, Co Down BT19 7PR.