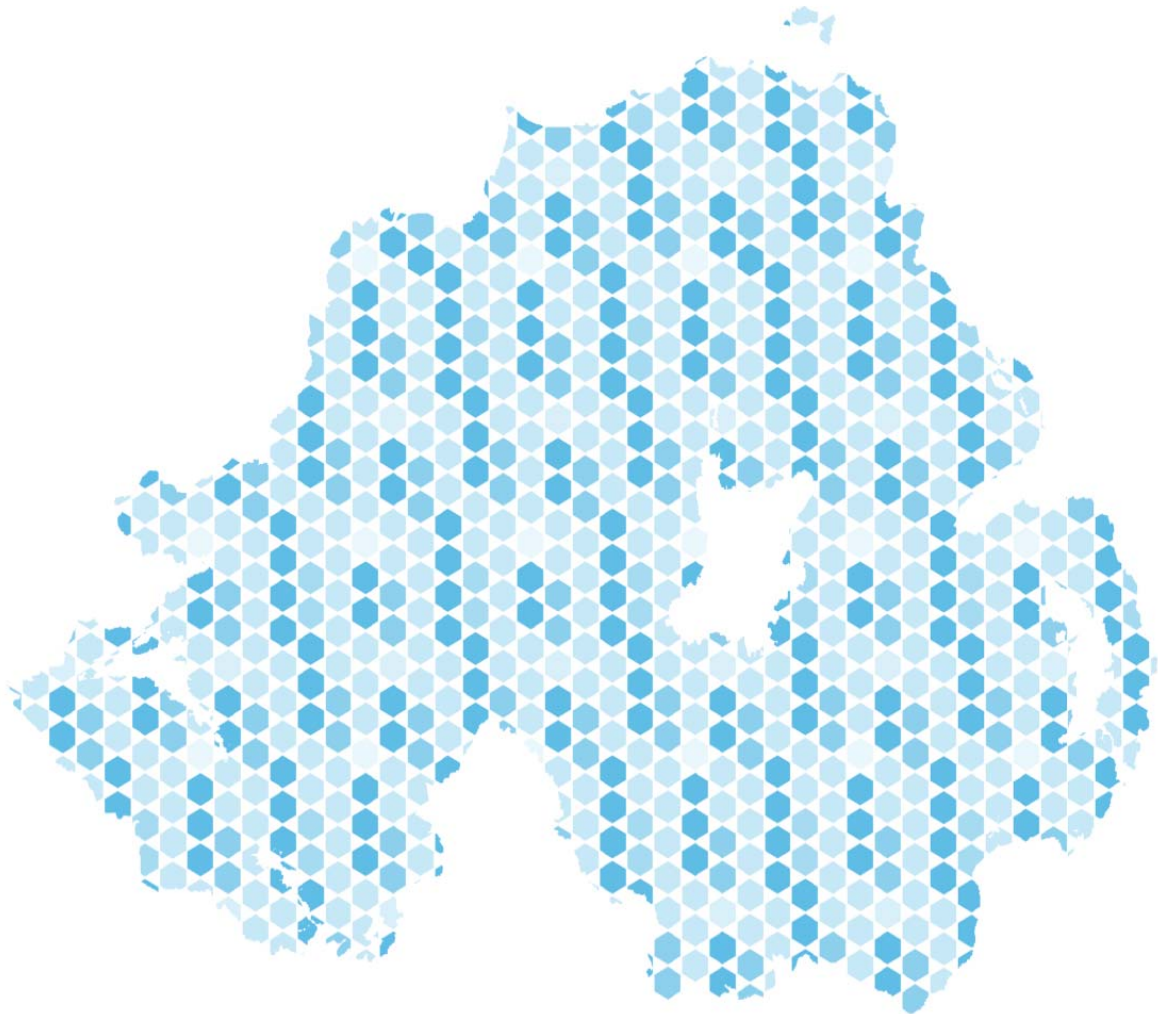


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Patrick's Primary School,
Mayobridge

Report of an Inspection
in November 2009

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



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE

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

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: St Patrick's Primary Mayobridge**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 503-1697**
 iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 30/11/09**
 iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Year 1 Intake	40	32	40	42	38
Enrolments					
Primary	249	233	254	247	255
Reception	12	14	11	17	22
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): 96.1%

	Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit	Irish Medium Unit
D. i. Number of Teachers (including the principal and part-time teachers): (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)	13	0	0	0
ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio):	21.3	NI PTR: 20.4		
iii. Average Class Size:	25			
iv. Class Size (Range):	18 to 32			
v. Ancillary Support: Number of Hours Per Week :	i. Clerical support: 43			
	ii. Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant Support: 55.5			
	iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: 182.5			
vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs:	3.6%			
vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register:	16.6%			
viii. Number of children who are not of statutory school age:	22			
ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals:	12%			
x. Percentage of children at the end of Key Stage 2 for 2008/09 who attained level 4 and above in English and mathematics:	English 67.85%	Mathematics 67.86%		

ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, MAYOBRIDGE, NEWRY, CO DOWN, BT34 2EX (503-1697)

SCHOOL CONTEXT

St Patrick's Primary School is situated in the village of Mayobridge. The children come from the village and the surrounding areas. The enrolment in the primary school currently stands at 277. At the time of the inspection, approximately 12% of the children were entitled to free school meals.

A new extension has been built since the last inspection which has provided three bright, attractive classrooms and shared areas for the younger children. The construction of this new building has, however, limited the amount of overall playground space available to the children.

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 124 questionnaires issued to the parents, 69 (56%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including 32 which contained additional written comments. Almost all of the responses from the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life; reference was made to the role the school plays in the supporting the local community, the caring teachers and support staff, the safe environment and the hard-working, approachable Principal. During the inspection, members of the inspection team met with a number of parents and governors who expressed high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of the work of the school. Eleven of the teachers completed a questionnaire; ten teachers also made written comments. Almost all of the responses made by the teachers were positive about all aspects of the life and work of the school. The very few issues raised in the parent and staff questionnaires were shared with the Principal and the Chair of the Board of Governors.

The inspectors also met with a group of the year 6 children: they talked happily and enthusiastically about their experiences at school, and the support and encouragement they receive from all of the staff. The children are aware of what to do if they have worries about their safety and well-being.

PASTORAL CARE

The quality of arrangements for pastoral care is outstanding. This is displayed through the excellent working relationships between the children and all the staff, the strong pastoral dimension embedded throughout the work of the school and the excellent behaviour of the children.

CHILD PROTECTION

The primary school has very good comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. The arrangements reflect the guidance issued by DE.

CONCLUSION

The strengths of the school include:

- the outstanding quality of the pastoral care;
- the exemplary behaviour and high levels of motivation and cooperative working demonstrated by the children;
- the quality of the teaching observed nearly all of which was good or better with a majority being very good or outstanding;
- the commitment shown by the staff at all levels;
- the hard working and dedicated Principal; and
- the central role played by the school in the local community;

Area for Improvement includes the need to:

- continue to develop the effective use of the school's extensive range of collated data to inform strategic planning and the implementation of appropriate strategies, in order to raise further the standards in literacy and numeracy across the school.

In most of 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 an area for improvement in leadership and management and standards which needs to be addressed if the needs of all the learners are to be met more effectively.

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

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Several parents made reference to the parking arrangements at the front of the school. A risk assessment should be carried out in relation to the car parking arrangement particularly at the beginning and ending of the school day.

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