

*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

## **Education and Training Inspectorate**

### **Report of a Short Inspection**

**Good Shepherd Primary and Nursery School  
Derry**

**Inspected: May 2009**



**GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL, DERRY, BT47 6BW  
(203-6288)**

Good Shepherd Primary School is situated on the Dungiven Road, at the lower end of the Waterside area of Derry. The enrolment in the primary school has remained steady over recent years and is currently 395; in addition, 52 children attend the nursery school. Most of the children come from the immediate locality and a small number come from the surrounding area. At the time of the inspection, approximately 14% of the children in the primary school were entitled to free school meals. Approximately 8% of the children in the primary school were on the special educational needs register. The school has developed its accommodation in order to enhance the learning environment for the 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 130 questionnaires issued to the parents in the primary school 47 (36%) were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including 23 which contained an additional written comment. A majority of the parental questionnaires and written responses indicated high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life; reference was made to the approachable and dedicated staff and to the supportive ethos within the school. The few issues raised were discussed with the Principal. The teachers' responses were wholly positive. In discussions, the children from year 6 and members of the School Council talked enthusiastically about the extra-curricular sporting opportunities that are available to them and indicated that they feel safe and secure within the school.

In the nursery, 52 questionnaires were issued to the parents; 24 (46%) were returned to DE and ten contained additional written comments. Those parents who responded indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the overall provision and they recorded their appreciation of the caring and diligent staff and the work of the nursery. All of the comments made have been shared with the nursery staff and the management of the school.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school and the nursery is very good. This is demonstrated through the inclusive and supportive ethos throughout the school, the good links established with external agencies to provide further support services for the children, the range and quality of the strategies to celebrate achievement, and the professional development programme for staff, in support of the children who are experiencing emotional issues.

The school and the nursery has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education but the following area needs to be addressed: to ensure the training already identified for all staff in Child Protection, is completed by June 2009.

The school and the nursery give very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example through the provision of healthy breaks and the extra-curricular programme which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles.

The strengths of the school include:

- the quality of the teaching observed, the majority of which was good or very good and a minority of which was outstanding;
- the good standards achieved by nearly all of the children and, in particular, the very good levels of attainment in literacy;
- the good quality of the school development plan (SDP) which guides the future development of learning and teaching across the school effectively;
- the effectiveness of the process for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the quality of the provision;
- the very good leadership of the Principal and the Vice-principal, who have created a shared vision and purpose for the work of the school; and
- the very well behaved children who demonstrate interest in their work and enjoy the positive climate for learning in the school.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

## **THE NURSERY SCHOOL**

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

- There is a settled, happy atmosphere; working relationships between the staff and the children are very good. The nursery's positive ethos promotes effectively the children's confidence and self-esteem.
- Working relationships and communication with the parents are very good; a variety of appropriate methods is used to encourage the parents to play a full role in the education of their children.
- The activities on offer provide an appropriate range of play experiences for the children and opportunities for learning in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The programme promotes effectively the children's personal, social and emotional development; the promotion of the children's creativity is a particular strength of the programme.
- The staff are hard-working and dedicated; they work together effectively in the best interests of the children.
- Good links have been established with the primary school. The children visit the school and attend special events. Good efforts are made to ensure that all of the children make a smooth transition to year 1.

Areas for Improvement include:

- The organisation of the day, including the necessary daily routines, should be improved in order to ensure that all time and space is used more effectively to promote the children's learning and development.

The staff of the nursery have not yet begun to develop methods of self-evaluation.

## **CONCLUSION**

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the nursery is good. The nursery has important strengths in most of its educational and pastoral provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement which the nursery has demonstrated the capacity to address. The Education and Training Inspectorate will monitor the nursery's progress on the areas for improvement.

**STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
NURSERY SCHOOL, DERRY**

**1. Details of Children**

<b>Number of children:</b>	<b>Class 1</b>	<b>Class 2</b>
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***	0	0
At CoP stages 1 or 2***	1	0
With English as an additional language	3	3

\* 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.	0
Average attendance for the previous year.	96%

**2. Duration of Sessions**

<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time: am</b>	<b>Part-time: pm</b>
4 hours 45 minutes	-	-

**3. Details of Staff**

<b>Number of:</b>	<b>Full-Time</b>	<b>Part-Time</b>
Teachers	2	0
Nursery Assistants	2	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	0	0

<b>Number of: ****</b>	
Students	0
Trainees	2

\*\*\*\* Total placements since September of current year

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

Number issued	52
Percentage returned	46%
Number of written comments	10

Throughout the report a number of quantitative terms are used which may be interpreted as indicated below:

- More than 90% - almost/nearly all
- 75%-90% - most
- 50%-74% - a majority
- 30%-49% - a significant minority
- 10%-29% - a minority
- Less than 10% - very few/a small number.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2009

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.