



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure



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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

Mullabuoy Primary School
Derry

Inspected: April 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Mullabuoy Primary Derry** iii. **Date of Inspection: 01.04.09**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 203-3707** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year 1 Intake	12	14	16	13	18
Enrolments					
Primary	91	90	92	92	96
Reception	0	0	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): 96.7%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers): 4 0 0
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 24 NI PTR: 20.8
- iii. Average Class Size: 24
- iv. Class Size (Range): 25 to 25
- v. Ancillary Support:
 Number of Hours **Per Week:**
- | | |
|---|----|
| i. Clerical support: | |
| ii. Official Making A Good Start Support: | 15 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 50 |
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 0%
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 20.37%
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 32%

MULLABUOY PRIMARY SCHOOL, DERRY, BT47 3HZ (203-3707)

Mullabuoy Primary School is a small rural school in Lettershandoney, approximately four miles from Derry. Almost all the children come from the immediate vicinity. The enrolment has remained steady over the last few years and the current figure is 96. Approximately 32% of the children are entitled to receive free school meals; just over 20% of the children are on the special educational needs register.

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. Sixty-nine families were issued with questionnaires; one-third of these were returned to the Department of Education (DE) and 12 contained an additional written comment. Almost all the questionnaires and most of the written comments indicated high levels of satisfaction with the work of the school; reference was made to the happy and well-settled children, and the caring and supportive staff. The issues raised in a minority of the responses were discussed with the Principal and Chairperson of the Board of Governors (governors). The teachers' responses were wholly positive.

In addition, the inspection team met with a number of parents, including a representative of the governors. They expressed their support and appreciation for the work of the staff and spoke positively about the range of opportunities for pupils to participate in extra-curricular events and activities.

The inspectors also met with a group of year 6 and 7 children; they talked enthusiastically about the many aspects of school that they enjoy and reported that they feel safe and know what to do if they have a concern.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in this school is very good. Among the strengths are the very good working relationships throughout the school, the caring and supportive ethos and the contribution made by the support staff to the children's well-being and learning experiences. There is also an appropriate focus on Personal Development and Mutual Understanding in the curriculum to promote the pupils' personal safety.

The school has very good arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect fully the guidance in the relevant DE circulars. The governors, staff, parents and children are fully aware of the school's procedures and have had the opportunity to contribute to a range of effective policies which guide the work of the school.

The school gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, for example, having a cooking and healthy lifestyles initiative and effective policies to guide and support healthy eating throughout the school day. The area for improvement identified is the need to formalise the monitoring of whole-school healthy eating programmes, as these continue to develop.

The strengths of the school include:

- the very good quality of the pastoral care including the behaviour of the children;
- the high quality of the teaching observed which was always good and mostly very good or better;

- the very good standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy arising, in part, from the high expectations of the teachers;
- the hard-working and committed teaching staff, all of whom have responsibilities beyond their classroom and are ably supported by the non-teaching staff;
- the dedicated Principal who leads by example and sets a positive tone for the work of the school; and
- the effective use of assessment data to track the progression of the children both at whole-class and individual levels.

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.

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

ACCOMMODATION

- The office accommodation for the Principal is very limited and proximity to the school's computer system is disruptive during work. The secretary's workspace is unsuitable for maintaining privacy in dealing with children, parents and visitors.

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