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*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
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Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Short Inspection

Lisnadill Primary School
Armagh

Inspected: February 2009

LISNADILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, ARMAGH, CO ARMAGH, BT60 2PS (501-1153)

As part of the Education and Training Inspectorate's programme of inspection for 2008/09, the above school was inspected in February 2009. The inspection was carried out using the procedures of the Short Inspection.

The school has received an oral report-back from the Reporting Inspector, Mrs Karen Caulfield, and the points noted below provide a written record of the key findings which were identified during the inspection.

The Department of Education (DE) will publish the inspection report; copies of the report will issue to the school to forward to the parents / guardians of the children.

Lisnadill Primary School is situated in the rural townland of Lisnadill, approximately three miles from the city of Armagh. The enrolment has remained steady over recent years and is currently 74; it will be important that the employing authority, school Board of Governors (governors) and the staff continue to plan for any matters relating to the sustainability of the school provision. In addition to the teaching Principal there are three full-time teachers including the Vice-principal, and one part-time teacher.

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 60 questionnaires issued to the parents; 23 (38%) were returned to DE, including eight which contained an additional written comment. Almost all of the parental questionnaires and written comments indicated very high levels of satisfaction with all aspects of school life; reference was made to the high quality of education the children receive, the hard-working, approachable and enthusiastic teachers and support staff, the warm and caring environment, the wide range of experiences provided and the support for children of all abilities. All of the teachers completed a questionnaire and their responses were wholly positive. An analysis of the questionnaires and the written comments made by the parents and the staff were shared with the Principal and the governors.

A group of parents and a number of governors met with the inspection team on the first day of the inspection. Both groups expressed strong support and appreciation for the work of the school and praised highly, the standards which the children attain, the leadership of the Principal, the excellent accommodation, the child-centred ethos and the high regard with which the school is held in the community.

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

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in this school is very good. The school has excellent 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. Among the strengths are the high priority given to the health and well-being of the staff and children.

The strengths of the school include:

- the high quality of the learning and teaching, which was good or very good in almost all of the lessons observed, and excellent on two occasions;
- the excellent leadership provided by the Principal, who is well-supported by the Vice-principal;
- the high standards attained in literacy and numeracy;
- the well-ordered and happy ethos which permeates the school, and the children's exemplary behaviour;
- the very good use of self-evaluation by all of the teachers to identify appropriately, areas for continued development, particularly information and communication technology and creativity within literacy; and
- the strong sense of community.

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 children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

A number of quantitative terms are used in the report. In percentages, the terms correspond as follows:-

- | | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|
| 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. |

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