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*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

Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School and Nursery Unit Dunmurry

Inspected: May 2009

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary Dunmurry** iii. **Date of Inspection: 13.05.09**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 403-6591** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09
Year 1 Intake	35	43	48	48	55
Enrolments					
Primary	235	272	303	331	341
Reception	0	0	0	0	0
Nursery Class/Classes	52	52	52	52	52
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):

95.2%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers): 16 1 0
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 26.2 NI PTR: 20.8
- iii. Average Class Size: 26.23
- iv. Class Size (Range): 19 to 30
- v. Ancillary Support:
 Number of Hours **Per Week**:
- | | |
|---|------|
| i. Clerical support: | 1 |
| ii. Official Making A Good Start Support: | 22.5 |
| iii. Additional hours of other classroom assistant support: | 210 |
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 2%
- vii. Total percentage of children on the Special Needs Register: 11%
- viii. Number of children who are **not** of statutory school age: 0
- ix. Percentage of children entitled to free school meals: 16%

**OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT,
DUNMURRY, BT17 0EW (403-6591)**

Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School is situated on Cherry Road, in the Parish of Kilwee, Dunmurry. The enrolment in the primary school has been increasing steadily over the past nine years and currently stands at 341; in addition, 52 children attend the nursery unit which operates two part-time sessions. At the time of the inspection, approximately 16% of the children in the primary school were entitled to free school meals. The school has identified approximately 11% of the children who require additional support with aspects of their learning.

The short inspection focused on achievements and standards, the quality of provision for learning and leadership and management.

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, as well as a meeting with a group of children from year 6 and year 7.

Of the 110 questionnaires issued to the parents in the primary school; approximately 27% were returned to the Department of Education (DE), including 19 which contained an additional written comment. The responses from the parental questionnaires indicate high levels of satisfaction with the quality of provision in the school. The very few issues raised were discussed with the Principal and Vice-principal. In the nursery unit, of the 52 questionnaires issued to the parents, approximately 8% were returned to DE including eight which contained an additional written comment. Those who responded indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the overall provision and they recorded their appreciation of the caring and professional staff; they report that the parents are encouraged to be involved in their children's education and that the nursery is well thought of in the community. All of the responses have been shared with the management of the school.

Seven teachers completed the online questionnaire, three of which contained an additional comment. The responses from the teachers were very affirmative of the developmental work of the school.

The children in year 6 and year 7 reported that they are happy and secure in school and that they enjoy their learning. They indicated that they know whom to talk to if they have any concerns.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the primary school is outstanding. Among the strengths are the positive working relationships at all levels; the excellent behaviour of the children which is encouraged by a whole-school approach to the promotion of positive behaviour; the stimulating learning environment; the strong pastoral dimension to the curriculum and the range of extra-curricular activities provided.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the nursery is very good. The nursery has a very positive ethos which helps to promote the children's confidence and self-esteem; working relationships at all levels are very good. The children respond well to the staff and their behaviour is very good.

The primary school and nursery unit have comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children. These arrangements reflect the guidance issued by DE.

The primary school gives good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, as demonstrated through the children's knowledge and awareness of healthy lifestyles and popular after-school clubs. The school has identified appropriately the need to consult more widely on the draft healthy eating policy. The nursery gives very good attention to promoting healthy eating and physical activity. The staff promote the children's understanding of healthy lifestyles through the nursery's routines and play activities.

The strengths of the school include:

- the quality of the teaching which was very good or outstanding in all lessons observed; in over one half of the lessons the teaching was evaluated as outstanding;
- the very high standards achieved by the children in literacy and numeracy;
- the children's positive attitudes to learning and their confident, articulate responses exemplified through the provision of valuable collaborative and independent learning experiences;
- the outstanding quality of play-based learning in the foundation stage which provides effective opportunities for the children to apply their literacy and numeracy skills in meaningful contexts;
- the inspirational and collegiate leadership of the Principal ably supported by the Vice-principal, the literacy co-ordinator and numeracy co-ordinator; and
- the excellent use of self-evaluative processes to monitor and evaluate the standards of learning and teaching and to set appropriate targets for continuous improvement as identified in the school development plan.

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the primary school is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The school has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

THE NURSERY UNIT

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

- the staff are caring and supportive and their interactions help promote settled and co-operative play;
- there are satisfactory opportunities for learning in most areas of the pre-school curriculum: the children's personal, social and emotional development and their language development are particular strengths;
- the staff plan appropriately for the play programme and they have made good progress in establishing systems for the assessment of the children's development and achievement;
- the children with special educational needs receive focused support from the staff and very effective links have been established with other health professionals, in particular the speech therapy service;
- the very good links established with the parents. The "Incredible Years" programme offers the parents the opportunity to obtain valuable advice and information on their children's growth and development; and
- the teacher in charge of the nursery demonstrates a strong commitment to the welfare of the children and the development of the nursery. The staff work well together and the programme is evaluated regularly. The nursery's development plan should be adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The inspection identified areas for improvement. The following is the most important area that needs attention.

- The staff need to exploit more fully the learning potential within the planned activities and extend the children's thinking and learning, through more skilful interactions and a more creative and imaginative use of the available resources.

In most of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided in this nursery is satisfactory; the strengths outweigh areas for improvement in the provision. The inspection has identified areas for improvement in learning and teaching which need to be addressed if the needs of all the children are to be met more effectively.

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

STATISTICAL INFORMATION ON THE NURSERY UNIT IN OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST

1. Details of Children

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	0	0
Attending part-time	26	26
Under 3 years of age*	0	3
With a statement of SEN	0	0
At CoP stages 3 or 4	2	1
At CoP stages 1 or 2	7	6
With English as an additional language	0	0

* 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.	4%
Average attendance for the previous year.	93.6%

2. Duration of Sessions

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm
-	2½ hours	2½ hours

3. Details of Staff

Number of:	Full-Time	Part-Time
Teachers	1	0
Nursery Assistants	1	0
Qualified Nursery Assistants	1	0

Number of: ****	
Students	7
Trainees	0

**** Total placements since September of current year

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

Number issued	52
Percentage returned	38.46%
Number of written comments	8

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.

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