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*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

**Pond Park Primary School
Lisburn**

Inspected: October 2006

BASIC INFORMATION SHEET (BIS) - PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- A. i. **School: Pond Park Primary** iii. **Date of Inspection: W/B 23/10/06**
 ii. **School Reference Number: 401-6401** iv. **Nature of Inspection: Short**

B.

School Year	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
Year 1 Intake	84	86	90	78	79
Enrolments					
Primary	591	581	585	580	572
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):

96.3%

Primary & Reception	Nursery Unit	Special Unit
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- D. i. Number of Teachers
 (including the principal and part-time teachers): 27 - -
 (Full-time equivalent = 25 teaching hours)
- ii. PTR (Pupil/Teacher Ratio): 23.8 NI PTR: 1:20
- iii. Average Class Size: 27.2
- iv. Class Size (Range): 24 to 30
- v. Ancillary Support:
 Number of Hours **Per Week**:
- | | |
|--|-------|
| i. Clerical support: | 52 |
| ii. Official Making A Good Start Support (MAGS): | 45 |
| iii. Making A Good Start funding additional hours and other classroom assistant support: | 162.5 |
- vi. Percentage of children with statements of special educational needs: 0.87%
- 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: 3.1%

POND PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL, LISBURN, CO ANTRIM, BT28 3BF (401-6401)

Pond Park Primary School is situated in a suburban area off the Pond Park Road in Lisburn. Most of the children come from the housing areas around the school. At present there are 572 children attending the school.

Approximately 3% of the children are entitled to free school meals. The school has identified approximately 11% of the children as requiring additional learning support.

The arrangements for the inspection of pastoral care included the completion of confidential questionnaires by the parents, and meetings with a representative from the Board of Governors (BoG) and a group of children from year 6. Prior to the inspection, 118 families were provided with questionnaires on the life and work of the school. Sixty-four per cent of the parents responded to the questionnaire, with 41 of them providing additional written comments. Nearly all of the parents, and the representative from the BoG, expressed their strong support for the work of the school; they commended, particularly, the quality of the teaching and the pastoral care, the caring ethos and the commitment and the approachability of the Principal and the staff. The inspection findings confirm fully these views. The few matters raised by individual parents have been brought to the attention of the BoG and the Principal.

The school has procedures in place which implement the main guidelines outlined in the Department of Education (DE) Circulars 1999/10, "Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection", and 2003/13, "Welfare and Protection of Pupils Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order". The children report that they feel safe in the school and that they know whom to turn to if they have any concerns.

The school's programme for the promotion of health and well-being has many sound features. Attention is given to the development and implementation of programmes which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles. There is a developing commitment to promoting healthy eating, and opportunities are provided for the children to participate in a range of physical activities.

The school has many strengths which include:

- the exemplary behaviour of the children;
- the high quality of the relationships and the caring and supportive ethos;
- the hard-working teachers and support staff;
- the co-operative and systematic approach to planning;
- the quality of the teaching observed, which ranged from satisfactory to outstanding, with most evaluated as being good;
- the high quality of the provision for pastoral care;
- the good provision for the children who require learning support;

- the high level of parental support;
- the very good standards attained by the pupils in most aspects of their work;
- the strong sense of team-work evident in the life and work of the school;
- the good leadership provided by the Principal and senior staff; and
- the commitment of the Principal and staff to the promotion of a culture of self-evaluation and the identification of relevant areas of the school's work for further development.

In the areas inspected, the school has major strengths in its educational and pastoral provision. The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are being well met. The parents can have confidence in the school's capacity for sustained self-improvement.

No follow-up inspection is required.

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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