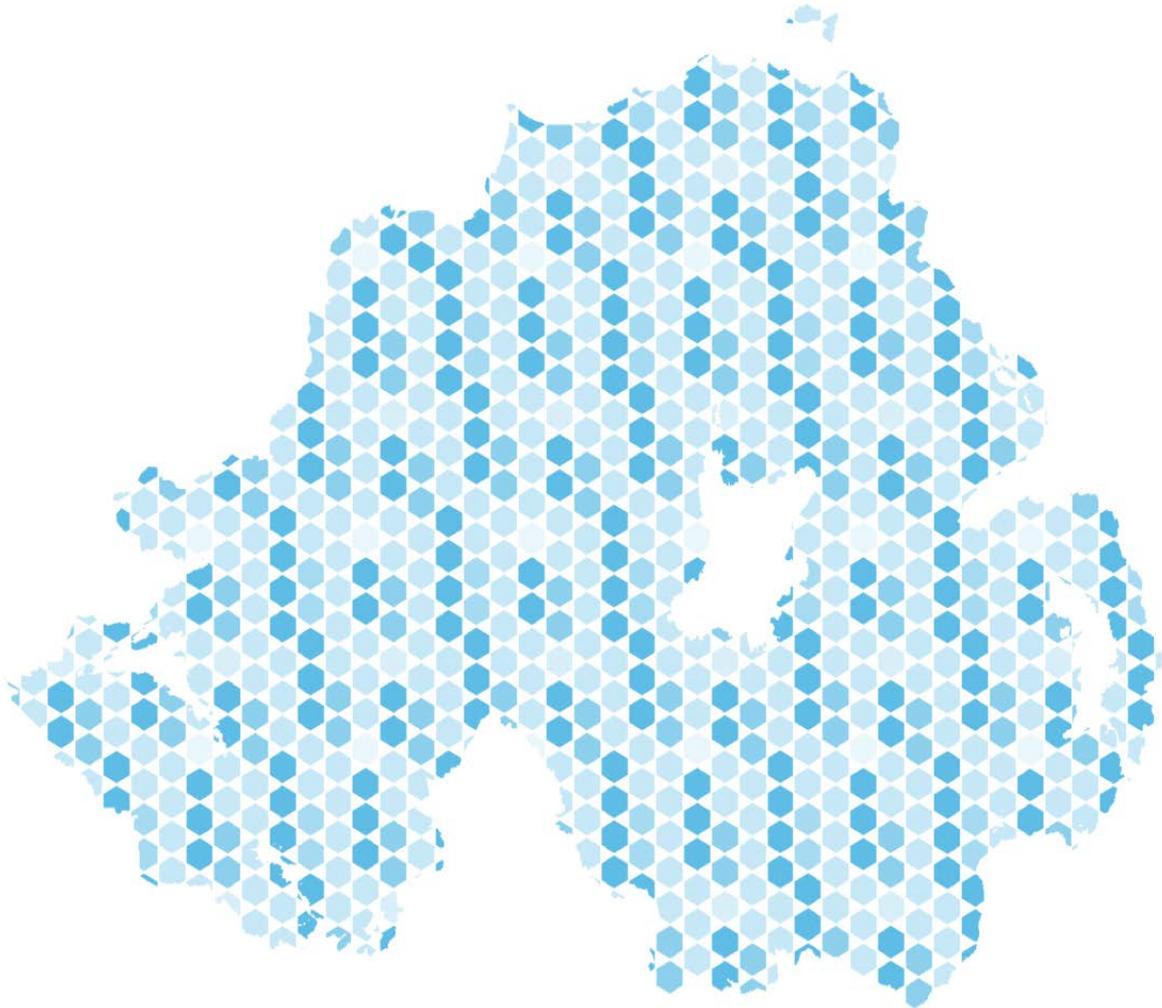


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Patrick's Primary School and
Nursery Unit, Castleberg,
County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection in February 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Patrick's Primary School, Castlederg, County Tyrone (203-6094)

Introduction

The previous inspection in November 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Unit as good¹. In the interim a new literacy co-ordinator, new special educational needs withdrawal teacher and a new class teacher have been appointed. A room within the school has been refurbished to accommodate a central library. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 5 February 2018.

Focus of the inspection

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- to raise further the children's learning experiences in literacy, in particular the development of creative writing; and
- to use performance data more strategically to inform learning and teaching.

Key findings

- The profile of writing has been raised throughout the school. A strategic and systematic approach to developing this area has been put in place partly due to the development of a whole-school framework for writing. There is an appropriate emphasis on handwriting, punctuation and grammar from an early stage; prior writing skills are built upon systematically and there is consistent progress from class to class. The standard of the children's writing is generally very good. The members of staff have undertaken a broad range of professional learning to build capacity including the identification of best practice which has been disseminated throughout the school; this has impacted positively on the standards of writing the children achieve. The inspectors met with a group of year 6 and 7 children to discuss their writing experiences; the children talked knowledgably about the characteristics of a range of writing styles and were enthusiastic about the regular opportunities they have to write from experience and transfer their writing skills across the curriculum. The board of governors is fully involved in the improvement process and has appointed a literacy and numeracy liaison governor.
- The analysis of a comprehensive range of internal performance data, together with a range of available qualitative assessment evidence, provide robust information on the children's progress. It is used appropriately by the leadership and staff to: monitor the impact of the learning and teaching strategies on the children's outcomes; identify and set school priorities within the school development plan; and, track the progress of target groups and individual children throughout the school.

¹ A school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. At a meeting with the year 6 and 7 children, they spoke about their enjoyment of school and know who to go to if they have concerns about their welfare.

Conclusion

St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Unit continues to demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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