

Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St. Colmcille's Primary School, Ballymena, County Antrim (303-6666)

A Sustaining Improvement Inspection (SII) was conducted on 9 May 2016. The purpose of the SII is to evaluate the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating that it has sustained its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school was asked to select, from the current priorities in the school development plan (SDP), two key priorities to demonstrate to the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) the effectiveness of the school's actions to continued improvement.

The two key areas identified by the school for the inspection were:

- the further development of teaching approaches and strategies to sustain and to continue to raise the children's mathematical standards and communication, including their use of the associated mathematical language; and
- the enhanced application of information and communication technology (ICT) across the curriculum, including the development of the 'Desirable Features', with a particular focus on film and animation in the school.

Key Findings

The school's well-embedded processes for consultation and self-evaluation continue to inform closely and accurately the school development plan and the associated action plans. The senior leadership team and the curriculum leaders guide and monitor strategically their respective areas of responsibility and evaluate thoroughly the impact of the action plans on the quality of the children's learning experiences and the standards which they attain.

The staff's effective dissemination and skilful incorporation of a progressive range of approaches to teaching mathematics contribute positively to the development of the children's mathematical thinking skills, their accurate use of mathematical vocabulary and the high standards they attain. Detailed analysis of the school's internal data and the provision of well-targeted interventions for children who require additional support or challenge in their mathematical learning are addressing well all the children's individual needs. In ICT, continuous improvement is evident in the high quality of the work that the staff have completed to ensure progression and continuity in the children's learning and the skills they can apply, including their creative use of a wider range of digital resources and increasingly challenging software. In all key stages, the children use ICT competently to extend and express their learning across the curriculum. Of particular note, is the significant impact of the continuous professional development and rigorous evaluation undertaken by the staff in numeracy and ICT.

Conclusion

St. Colmcille's Primary School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained self-improvement in the interest of the children.