

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Ashgrove Primary School, Newtownabbey, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (301-6244)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection in April 2019

Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Ashgrove Primary School, Newtownabbey, County Antrim (301-6244)

Introduction

The previous inspection in March 2016 evaluated Ashgrove Primary School as having the capacity for sustained improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 8 April 2019.

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 line of inquiry selected during the SII was:

- to review the processes of school development planning, monitoring progress and evaluating the impact of the actions to promote improvement in learning and teaching, with a particular focus on pastoral care, literacy and numeracy.

Key findings

- The school development plan priorities are informed through the effective analysis and synthesis of a wide range of qualitative and quantitative data. The comprehensive system for assessing, monitoring, evaluating and target-setting is used to good effect across the school to inform individual-child, class, key stage (KS) and whole-school progress. The co-ordinators have clearly defined roles and responsibilities for the areas they lead and use effectively a range of evidence to inform the priorities for development and evaluate improvements in the outcomes for the children. The school's internal assessment data indicates that by the end of KS 2, most of the children attain at or above the expected level in literacy and numeracy.
- Two-fifths of the lessons observed during the inspection were very good. The Rights Respecting School ethos is infused in the children's learning, consequently, during lessons, the children take turns readily, share, and engage respectfully with each other. Their literacy and numeracy work indicates appropriate progression in learning as they move through each key stage.
- In discussion with a group of children from year 7, they outlined their enjoyment of reading and detailed the opportunities they have to source their reading material. The children read with developing fluency and accuracy and, articulated strategies they use to decode words which are unfamiliar to them and how they determine their meaning. The staff have identified appropriately the comprehension of reading as an area of the children's literacy to be further developed.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education (DE).

The school needs to:

- update the relevant policies and risk assessments to reflect more accurately current DE guidance and school practice.

Conclusion

Ashgrove Primary School 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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