

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Killylea Primary School, Killylea, County Armagh

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (501-1132)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection in May 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Killylea Primary School, Killylea, County Armagh (501-1132)

Introduction

The previous inspection in June 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Killylea Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 30 May 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 during the SII was:

- to develop high quality planning for thinking skills and personal capabilities, including, in particular, opportunities for problem-solving and investigative work.

Key findings

- There is a clear strategic vision for school improvement. The school development plan is evaluative and well-informed by the analysis of the school's internal assessment data and a range of other first-hand evidence. It places a high priority on raising standards through well-planned opportunities for the children to develop as critical thinkers and problem-solvers. The co-ordinators work collegially to monitor and review the quality of provision in key curricular areas and the planning provides breadth and progression in the children's learning experiences. The whole-school focus on developing skills through problem-solving has resulted in a reduction in the number of children under-achieving in numeracy.
- From the foundation stage, the teachers provide appropriate opportunities for the children to explore and experiment through practical activity. The outdoor environment is very well-resourced and is used effectively to challenge the children's curiosity and to enhance their well-being. The teachers' adept use of questioning enables the children to make well-considered decisions and to be creative in their approaches to problem-solving activities. As they progress through the school, the children: grow in self-esteem and have confidence to try new things; show flexibility in thinking; work well in pairs and groups to persevere and apply systematic approaches to solve problems; and, are able to transfer these skills in a range of contexts. A group of children from key stage (KS) 2 spoke confidently, using appropriate mathematical and scientific language, about the problem-solving activities they have undertaken, including STEM¹ project work in the shared education partnership and creating videos for the school's eightieth anniversary.

¹ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. The group of children from year 6, who met with the inspector, report that they feel happy and safe in school. They spoke knowledgeably about how to stay safe online or whilst on a farm and know who to talk to if they have a concern.

Conclusion

Killylea 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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