

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Patrick's Primary School,
Glenariff, County Antrim

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in December 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Patrick's Primary School, Glenariff, County Antrim (303-6131)

Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2012, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's Primary School as very good¹. The school took part in the pilot of the sustaining improvement inspection (SII) in October 2015. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on the 11 December 2018. The school holds a Green Flag Award as an Eco-school and has achieved Level 2 in the Global Learning Programme.

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 raise further the quality of the children's learning experiences and outcomes through challenging learning activities in literacy and numeracy.

Key findings

- Leadership at all levels is highly strategic and reflective; there is an effective culture of self-evaluation underpinned by rigorous evaluation of classroom practice, children's work and teachers' planning. Literacy and numeracy are developed successfully through a team approach, led by highly effective co-ordinators. The staff's use of the school's internal data is effective and identifies potential low and high achievers, diagnoses individual children's difficulties, and actions are put in place to ensure that all children are reaching their potential.
- In discussion with the inspectors, a selection of year 7 children used innovatively a wide range of mental strategies to answer complex mathematical problems and explained competently their thinking. They discussed enthusiastically their favourite books and authors giving articulate reasons for their preferences, and used a wide range of reading strategies. All of the lessons observed ranged from very good to outstanding; the well-paced, differentiated activities and the teachers' skilful use of open-ended questions are extending the children's critical thinking, confidence and curiosity through investigative learning.
- It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

Safeguarding

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

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

The school needs to:

- construct and consult on a Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) policy.

Conclusion

St Patrick's Primary School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

APPENDIX

Health and Safety

- There is a need for a secure perimeter fence at an appropriate height to secure the premises.

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