

# Education and Training Inspectorate

## PRIMARY INSPECTION



### The William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School, Dervock, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (301-0842)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection in March 2019

## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of The William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School, Dervock, County Antrim (301-0842)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in March 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of The William Pinkerton Memorial Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. In the interim period, there have been changes to the members of staff including a new principal and almost half of the teaching staff. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 21 and 22 March 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 lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- to improve further the children's literacy skills, in particular, the quality of their writing; and
- to raise further the profile of the school through extending links with parents, the community and external agencies.

### **Key findings**

- There is a skilled, collegial approach to school improvement; the leadership and all staff contribute purposefully to the systematic approach to improving the standard of writing throughout the school. The children experience a wide and creative range of learning activities which develops well their accurate and imaginative writing across all genres. Most of the children achieve very good standards in their writing.
- The school has established a broad range of links with parents and the community, and a range of agencies which support effectively the children's holistic development including their emotional health and well-being. The focus on projects which involve parents along with their children promotes well the value placed on partnership in 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 the guidance from the Department of Education. In discussion with the inspectors, the children reported that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.

## **Conclusion**

The William Pinkerton Memorial 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.

**Health and Safety/Accommodation**

1. The limited car parking presents a health and safety concern for access to the school and to the playgroup.
2. The surface of the playground is uneven and presents a health and safety concern to children and staff.

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