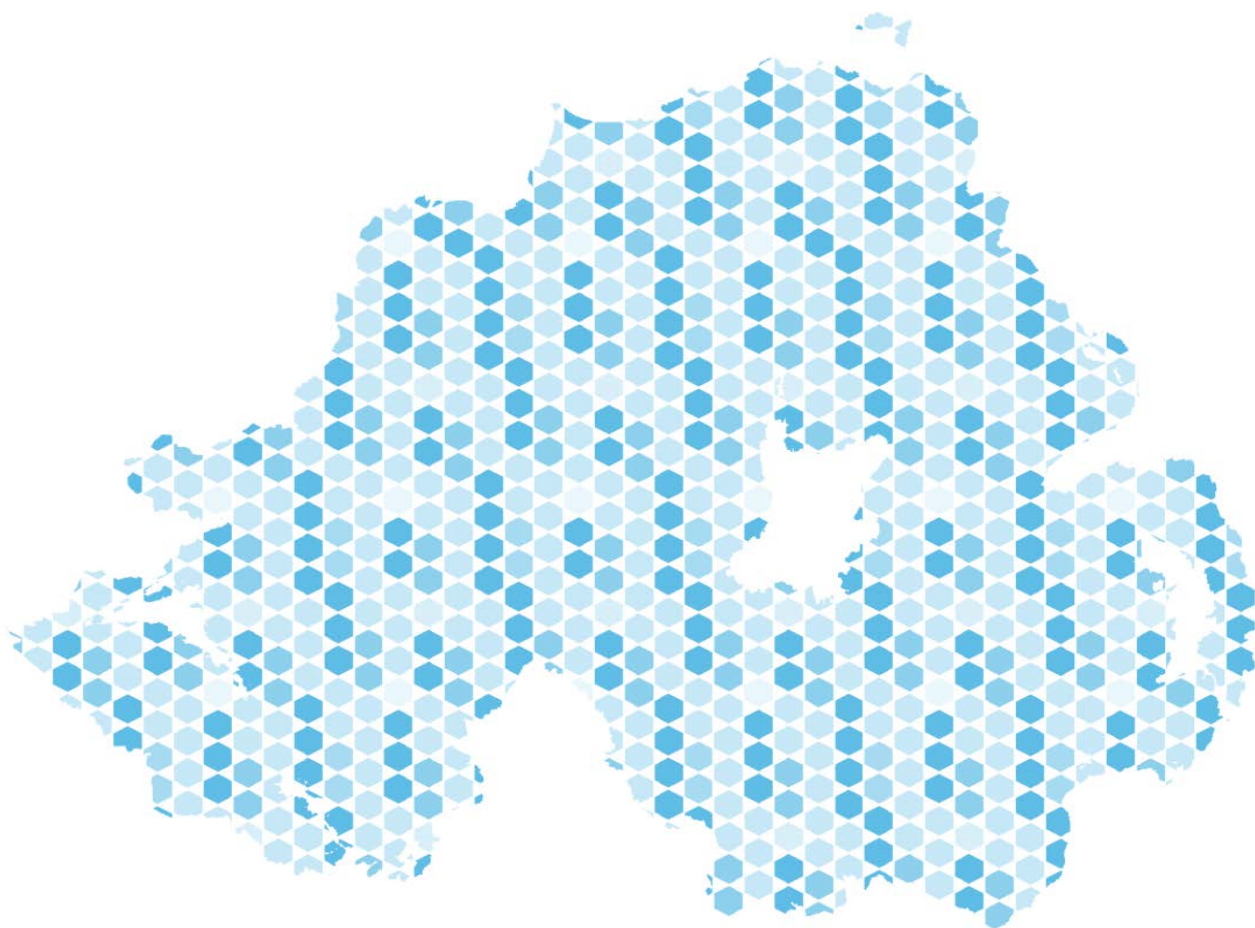


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ballysillan Primary School,
Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in October 2016



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BALLYSILLAN PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT11 9EH (103-6688)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Ballysillan Primary School in February 2015¹, which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

These were the need for:

- the leadership and management to establish a more rigorous and systematic approach to self-evaluation and planning for improvement in which action plans are focused more effectively on improving the quality of learning and teaching and linked more closely to improved outcomes in the children's learning and achievements; and
- the teachers to develop further the systems for monitoring and evaluating, including more effective use of quantitative and qualitative information, to inform planning and track the children's progress to ensure that all children achieve their full potential.

The school's action plans were of a good quality and were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI. The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out two interim follow-up visits in September 2015 and May 2016 and a follow-up inspection in October 2016.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the school include:

- the acting principal remains in post;
- the senior and middle management teams have been restructured;
- a new system is in place to monitor the impact of the changes made to improve target setting and planning;
- a comprehensive system is in place to identify and address underachievement;
- a considerable investment has been made in new resources for information and communication technology (ICT) across the school and also outdoor provision in the nursery unit; and
- the school has received very good support from the Education Authority (EA) advisory officers with regard to leadership and management.

¹ [Primary Inspection - Ballysillan Primary School and Nursery Unit, Belfast | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. There are appropriate systems in place to enable effective self-evaluation and planning for improvement. Comprehensive action plans guide the co-ordinators in their work and inform learning and teaching across the school. The co-ordinators work together, across their specialist areas, to inform their colleagues on how to adapt practice to meet the learning needs of all the children. There is evidence to show that the systems and structures in place are having a positive impact on the quality of the children's learning and their achievements. This consistent, team approach to ongoing monitoring and evaluation of key aspects of the work, ensures that there is a close match between the planning, provision and the children's individual progress.

The quality of the provision for learning is now good. During the follow-up inspection, the quality of the teaching observed was consistently of a high quality. The children are well settled in lessons and focused on their work. The teachers use effective questioning techniques to enable the children to organise their thinking and extend their responses. In the nursery unit, the staff have developed the outdoor learning environment to a high standard which the children enjoy.

The standards and achievements in English and mathematics are now good. While the majority of the children in both literacy and numeracy achieve in line with expectation there is a need to continue to focus on those children who are underachieving.

Overall Effectiveness

Ballysillan Primary School demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement in:

- ensuring further improvement in the standards that all children attain in English and mathematics.

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