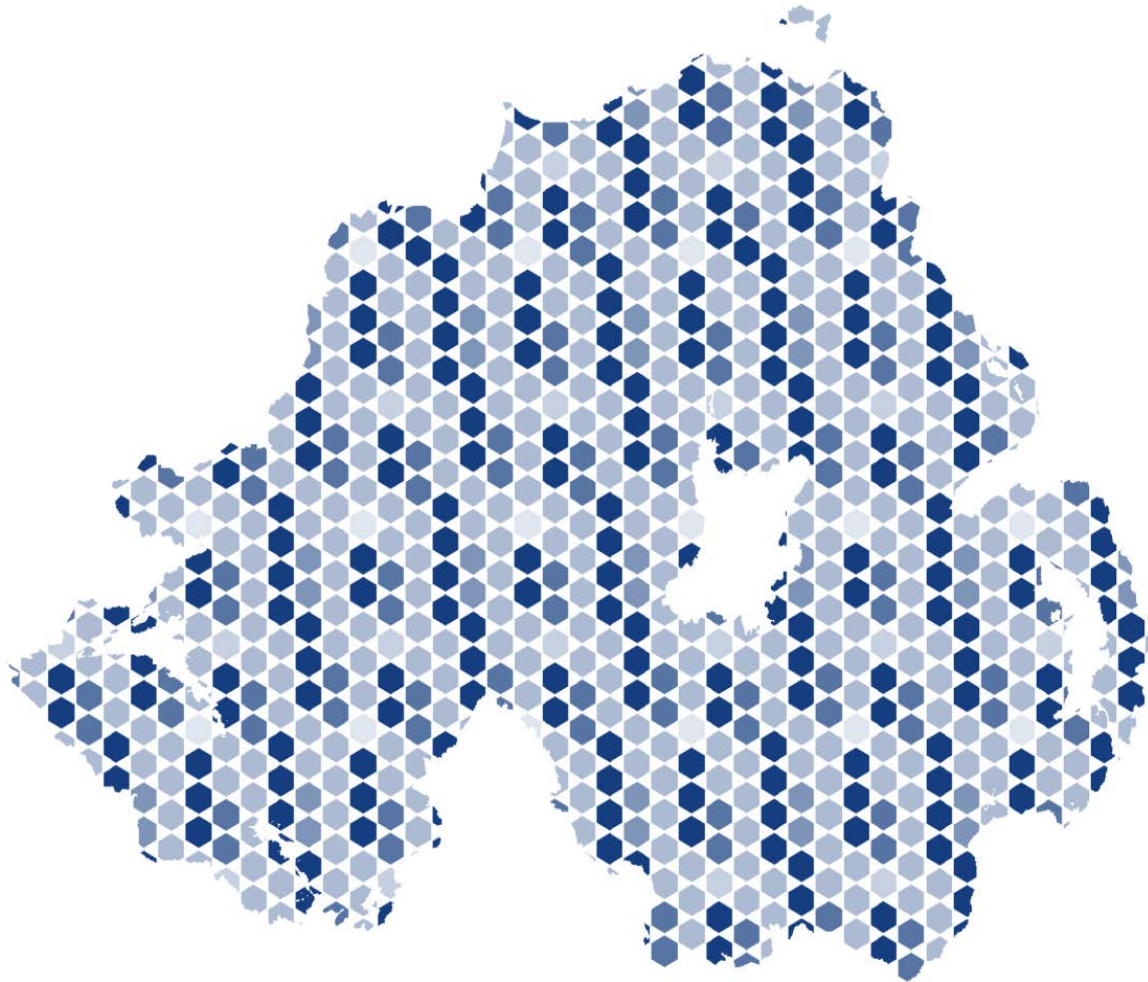


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Drumragh Integrated College,
Omagh, County Tyrone

Maintained integrated, co-educational, all-ability, 11-18 school

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in October 2016

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DRUMRAGH INTEGRATED COLLEGE, OMAGH, BT79 0GW (226-0283)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection¹ of Drumragh Integrated College in December 2014, when aspects of the quality of education were evaluated as satisfactory².

The areas for improvement identified at the inspection were the need to:

- further develop monitoring, evaluation and target-setting processes, in order to increase the effectiveness of the school's improvement processes; and
- comply with statutory regulations on school development planning, on reports for parents and on the content of the school prospectus.

The school's action plans were of a good quality and the school development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The progress made in the areas for improvement was discussed with the school during the two interim follow-up visits carried out by the ETI in October 2015 and March 2016. The school reports that the Education Authority staff provided significant support during the follow-up process. A follow-up inspection was conducted in October 2016.

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

- a raising standards team has been established to monitor and track pupil progress;
- a quality assurance team has been established to monitor and review assessment tasks at all assessment points in key stages 3 and 4;
- a whole-school target-setting system has been introduced;
- a new chairperson of the board of governors has taken up post; and
- a new co-ordinator for special educational needs has been appointed.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement are now good. The senior leadership team (SLT) has demonstrated the capacity to bring about improvement. There is a coherent and co-ordinated approach across all levels of management to track the pupils' progress and to implement a wide range of intervention and support programmes.

The school has established an innovative and effective tracking and recording system which blends academic and pastoral data, enabling easy access for staff to an appropriately broad range of information about pupil progress. The system underpins to good effect the target-setting process and helps to identify appropriate support and intervention strategies for individual pupils. Snapshots of these records are shared at each assessment point with parents.

¹ See standard inspection report at: <https://www.eti.gov.uk/publications/post-primary-inspection-drumragh-integrated-college-omagh>

² From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as satisfactory will now be reported as having important areas for improvement.

Management, at all levels, provide good support and appropriate challenge across the school. Consequently, responsibility and accountability for the necessary school improvement processes are shared more widely. The work of the quality assurance team is effective in ensuring consistency in the assessment process while also helping to inform and promote the development of the pupils' literacy and numeracy skills across the curriculum. Importantly, its work also involves assuring that the levels of challenge in the assessment tasks used across all departments are appropriate to the needs and abilities of all of the pupils, and consistently applied.

The governors remain strongly supportive of the school and have addressed all of the compliance issues that were identified during the original inspection. The school development plan (SDP) is well constructed and has involved comprehensive and meaningful consultation with the whole-school community. The plan is now compliant and the priorities identified are appropriate for the school's ongoing improvement. The SDP and the associated action plans guide well the work of the school.

The quality of the provision for learning remains good. Most of the lessons observed during the follow-up inspection were effective (good or better) at promoting and progressing the pupils' learning. The strengths in the effective practice include: clear learning intentions; useful starters to assess and draw upon the pupils' prior learning; positive learning environments characterised by good relationships; and effective questioning.

The standards and achievements of the pupils remain very good. Over the past three years, the percentage of pupils attaining five or more GCSE qualifications or equivalent at grades A* to C is above the Northern Ireland (NI) average for similar schools in the same free school meals band. Over the same period, the percentage of pupils attaining five or more GCSE qualifications or equivalent at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, is well above the NI average for similar non-selective schools. The attainment by pupils entitled to free school meals of five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A* to C, including English and mathematics, is in line with the NI average for similar schools.

Over the past three years, the percentage of pupils attaining three or more GCE A levels or equivalent at grades A* to C is consistently well above the average for similar schools. All pupils attained two or more GCE A levels or equivalent at grades A* to E over the same period.

Overall Effectiveness

Drumragh Integrated College demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The follow-up inspection identified the following area for improvement:

- to develop further the monitoring, evaluating and target-setting processes to bring about more consistent improvement in the pupils' attainments.

The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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