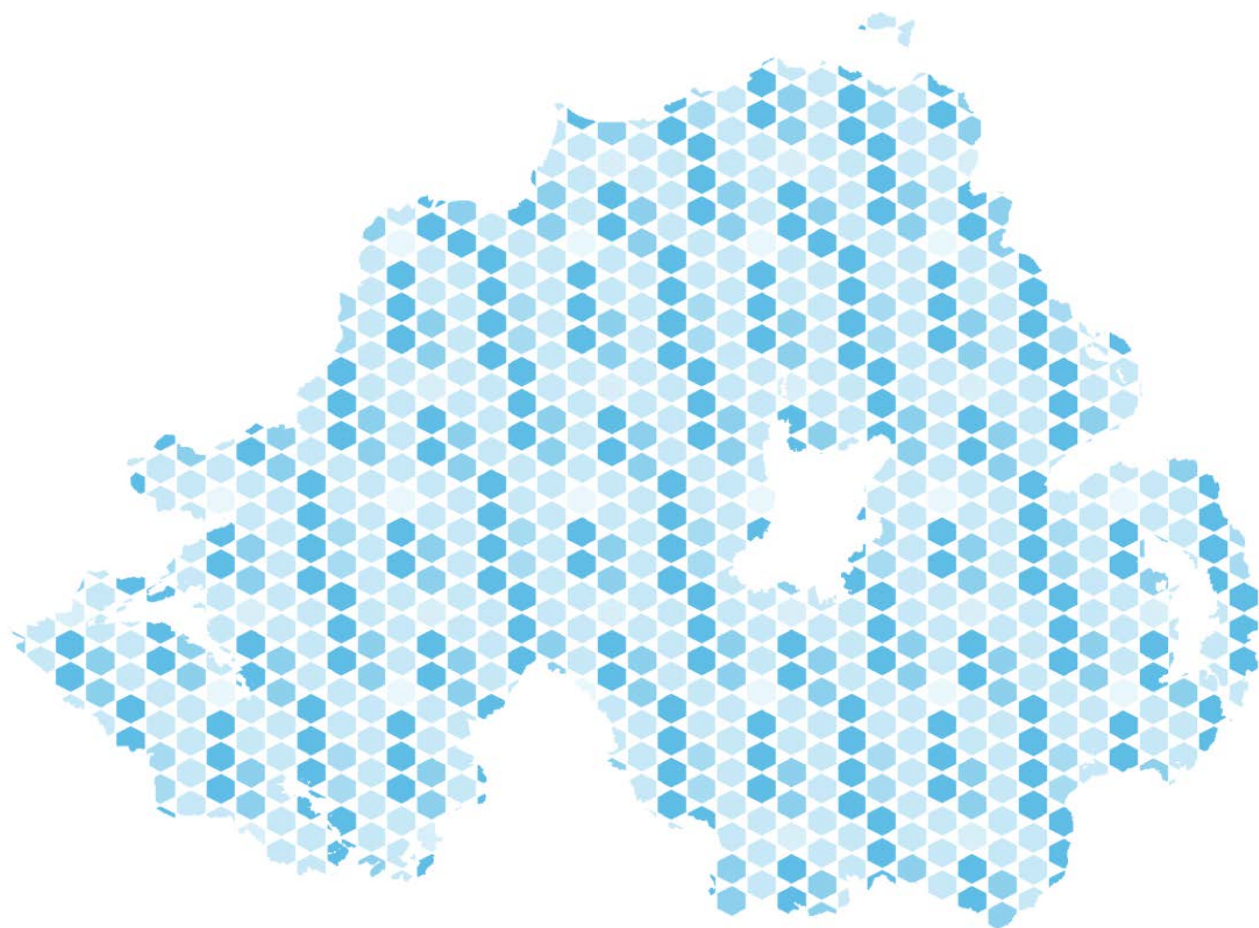


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Killowen Primary School
Nursery Unit, Lisburn,
County Antrim

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in September 2016

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KILLOWEN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT, LISBURN (401-6145)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Killowen Primary School and Nursery Unit (NU) in January 2015¹, which concluded that the quality of education provided by the NU was satisfactory.

The areas for improvement were the need to:

- develop and implement more effective positive behaviour management strategies;
- develop further the assessment methods to outline the children's development and progression in all areas of the pre-school curriculum; and
- review aspects of the organisation of the day to ensure that all time is used effectively for learning.

The NU's action plans were of a good quality. The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The ETI carried out interim follow-up visits out in September 2015 and March 2016 and a follow-up inspection in September 2016.

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

- the board of governors has employed an additional nursery assistant;
- the staff in the nursery unit received support from the Education Authority;
- both the staff in the nursery unit and the principal of the school have developed effective links with and visited a number of other nursery settings to observe practice and learn from the experience and expertise of other practitioners;
- all of the staff have attended training in positive behaviour management strategies;
- the staff have invested time and resources in improving the learning environment and the layout of the room; and
- the staff have developed further the links with parents involving them as valuable partners in their children's education and in promoting positive behaviour strategies.

Key Findings

- The children's standards and achievements are now very good. Almost all of the children are very well settled for the time of year and are secure in the routines of the day. They have high levels of concentration, show a keen interest in books and engage readily in purposeful and concentrated play, of both a solitary and collaborative nature.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/primary-inspection-killowen-primary-school-and-nursery-unit-lisburn-co-antrim>

- The quality of learning and teaching is now very good. All of the staff use positive behaviour management strategies and techniques consistently and the children are responding very well. The staff systematically review and evaluate their assessment methods to outline the children's development and progression in all areas of the pre-school curriculum. They have developed a very good understanding of the cycle of planning, observations and assessment. The organisation of the day now ensures that almost all time is used effectively for learning.
- The leadership and management is now very good. There are more effective links with the primary school. The principal and vice-principal monitor the provision in the nursery unit regularly. The special educational needs co-ordinator works in partnership with the staff in the NU and the arrangements for transition are effective in supporting children moving to primary 1.

Overall effectiveness

Killowen Nursery Unit has a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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