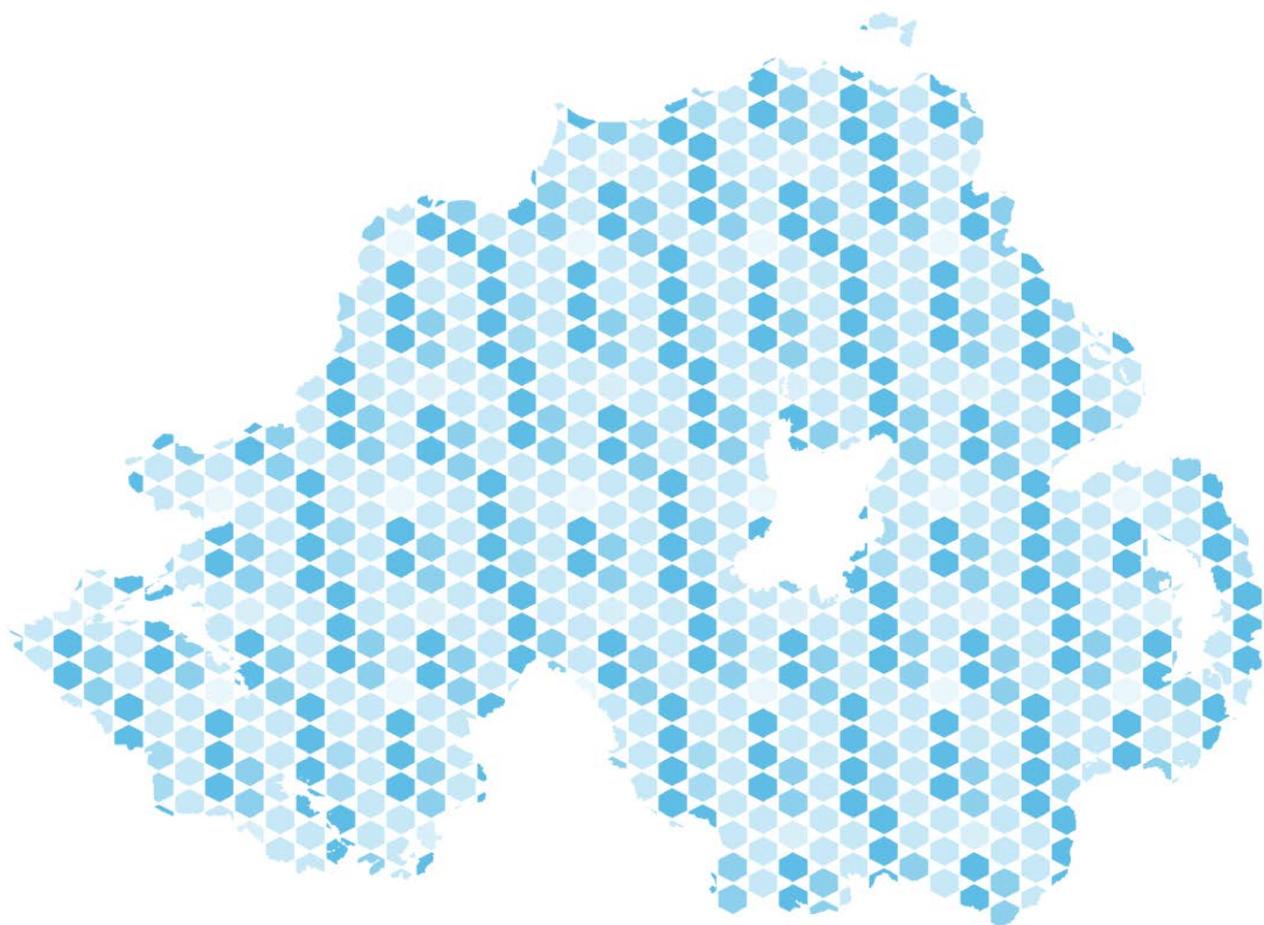


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Killowen Primary School,
Rostrevor, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in November 2017



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



FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF KILLOWEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROSTREVOR, COUNTY DOWN, BT79 9JA (503-1318)

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

The areas for improvement were to:

- develop effective communication between the governors, the principal, the staff and the parents;
- ensure that the senior leadership and learning co-ordinators adopt a more systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating the impact of action planning on the quality of learning and teaching;
- review the school's admissions policy for enrolment in the reception class; and
- address the deficiencies in the safeguarding arrangements identified in the original report.

As a consequence, the Department of Education entered the school into the Formal Intervention Process under the Every School a Good School² Policy in November, 2015.

The school's action plans were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by ETI. The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The ETI carried out a safeguarding follow-up visit in November 2015; an interim follow-up visit to the school in January 2017, and a follow-up inspection in November 2017.

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

- the very good support of the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools (CCMS) in the appointment of an associate principal to support leadership at all levels in the school and the improvement work of the school;
- the appointment of acting principals during the follow-up inspection process;
- the appointment of a new chair of the board of governors in November 2016;
- the staff visited a number of other primary schools and engaged with the Mourne area learning cluster group to observe and share good practice;
- the appropriate, ongoing and informed review of the school's admissions policy for enrolment in the reception class; there are currently no reception children in the year 1 class; and
- the very good training and support provided by the Education Authority (EA) for safeguarding, learning, teaching and leadership.

¹ Primary Inspection - Killowen Primary School, Rostrevor, County Down | Education Training Inspectorate

² Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement | Department of Education

Key findings

- The standards and achievements in literacy are now very good. Underachievement in literacy and numeracy has been reduced significantly. An analysis of the school data demonstrates that all of the children are achieving as expected in literacy and numeracy. The children have a very good understanding of problem solving skills and apply them successfully when carrying out a range of open-ended investigations in real life contexts.
- The provision for learning is now good. A comprehensive review of planning, focused on effective differentiation, ensures that the diverse range of needs in the composite classes are being met well. The lessons now provide the children with an appropriate range of active learning activities, as a result, the children are highly motivated and fully engaged in their learning. All of the lessons observed during the follow-up inspection were good or better in promoting learning with three-quarters being very good.
- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The staff and governors have worked collegially to address the areas for improvement. There is now a collaborative approach to, and shared understanding of, action to promote improvement. The roles and responsibilities of the co-ordinators have been clarified and enhanced to include planned monitoring and evaluation of the provision. An effective and systematic process is now in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of action planning on the quality of learning and teaching. The significant improvement in action planning and self-evaluation, supported by tailored staff development, has led to consistency in planning, learning and teaching throughout the school, and has impacted positively on the outcomes for the children.
- The governors are now well informed and involved actively in the improvement work of the school. They provide very good support and appropriate challenge to the staff and the school leadership. Clear, effective channels of communication between parents, staff and the governors are in place resulting in the increased involvement of the parents and local community in the life and work of the school.
- The deficiencies in the safeguarding arrangements identified in the original report have been addressed.
- It continues to be important that the employing authority, governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

Overall effectiveness

Killowen 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:

- widening the current systematic process of monitoring and evaluation across the other areas of learning.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2017

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk