

PRIMARY INSPECTION

Lislagan Primary School, Ballymoney
County Antrim

Controlled co-educational
DE Ref No: 301-0787

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in June 2022



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Follow-up to the inspection of Lislagan Primary School, Ballymoney, County Antrim, BT53 7JF

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection of Lislagan Primary School in June 2017¹. Owing to action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the impact of actions taken and the extent to which the important areas for improvement had been addressed, namely to:

- monitor and evaluate more rigorously the provision to inform the school's self-evaluation and school development planning processes; and
- develop further the action plans to focus clearly on learning and teaching in order to raise further the standards attained by the children.

Consequently, there remained a need for Lislagan Primary School to continue to address the important areas for improvement.

The school's development plan and associated action plans were adjusted in light of the inspection findings and the feedback given by ETI.

ETI carried out a monitoring visit in October 2021 and a second follow-up inspection in June 2022.

In the interval since the follow-up inspection, the school reported that it had received helpful external support from the Education Authority (EA) regarding strategic leadership and management development including the monitoring and evaluation of the children's learning experiences to inform the quality of planning, learning and teaching for improvement.

Over the same period, the key actions or changes which affect the work of the school include:

- the appointment of a new principal, two permanent teachers and an additional classroom assistant;
- the appointment of a senior teacher and establishment of a senior leadership team, including new co-ordinators for literacy and special educational needs;
- the appointment of a new chairperson and additional members to the board of governors; and
- the further training and development of governors.

As a consequence of the external support and the key changes and actions taken within the school, there have been improvements in the quality of education as reported in the key findings below.

¹ [Follow-Up inspection \(Involving Action Short of Strike\) - Lislagan Primary School.2017](#)

Key findings

Twenty-six percent of parents and all of the staff responded to the confidential, online questionnaire. Almost all of the parents' responses were very positive, with most of the written comments affirming their children's enjoyment of learning and school life. A very small number of the 26 percent of parents who responded, expressed their concerns about aspects of the provision.

All responses to the staff questionnaire endorsed the effective working relationships within the school and the support of the parents and community. The ETI has communicated to the principal and the chair of the board of governors the main findings, and any individual issues arising, from the questionnaires.

The outcomes for learners remain as good. Almost all of the children listen attentively, participate in class discussions and are able to articulate and explain confidently their viewpoints. Most of the children extend their mathematical knowledge by applying their understanding of problem-solving and reasoning skills during investigative activities. The school's internal standardised data indicates that most of the children are achieving in line with or above expectation in literacy and numeracy. The children are developing their leadership roles through the newly established school- and eco-council within the school. The group of year 7 children who met with the inspectors expressed their enjoyment of reading, art and sport. They spoke confidently and enthusiastically about their favourite authors which has inspired them to write their own books for the children in key stage (KS) 1.

The quality of provision remains as good. The teachers' effective use of questioning techniques and investigative learning activities develop well the children's thinking skills and personal capabilities. The staff track methodically the children's progress by using a wide range of qualitative and quantitative data which informs the programmes of support to meet the individual learning needs of children. The teachers' planning ensures progression and differentiation for most children; however, there remains a need to ensure that the more able children have further opportunities to challenge and extend their learning.

The quality of leadership and management has improved and is now good. The school development plan is well-informed by an appropriate self-evaluation process, underpinned by action plans which guide effectively the improvement work. The improved capacity and confidence of the appointed curriculum co-ordinators in leading and managing their area is supported by their engagement in a programme of professional learning. They are developing well a rigorous process of monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching, informed by first-hand observations and systematic reviews of children's work, which is leading to improvements in the standards of reading, writing and mental mathematics. The board of governors now have a good understanding of the children's outcomes and use effectively their challenge function. Co-ordinators attend governors' meetings and provide appropriate reports on the progress of the children. Based on the evidence presented at the time of the follow-up inspection, there can be a high degree of confidence in the aspects of governance evaluated.

Overall effectiveness

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

- embedding further the quality of learning and teaching in the school through the use of its own self-evaluation processes to identify and disseminate best practice.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2022

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](#)

Follow us on  [@ETI_news](#)  [@ETInews](#)  InsPIRE