

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Naíscoil an Iúir, Newry, County Down

Irish-medium Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No 5BB-0235

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in October 2022



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Follow-up to the inspection of Naíscoil An Iúir, Newry, BT34 2DH (5BB-0235)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Naíscoil an Iúir in January 2019¹, which concluded that the naíscoil needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners, namely to:

- develop a shared understanding and implement the process of planning for improvement and the use of effective self-evaluation to monitor and evaluate the impact on the quality of provision and the outcomes for the children;
- continue to develop the cycle of planning, observation and assessment to improve further the provision across all areas and the learning experiences for the children; and
- strengthen the governance provided by the management committee of the naíscoil.

The naíscoil's action plans were adjusted in response to the feedback given by the ETI. The naíscoil's development plan was also adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in October 2019, a monitoring visit in March 2022 and a follow-up inspection in October 2022.

In the interval since the inspection, the naíscoil has received external support from an early years specialist (EYS) from Altram in relation to planning, observations and self-evaluation.

Over the same period, the key changes and actions which have affected the work of the naíscoil are:

- the development of an enclosed outdoor area to which there is direct access from the playroom; and
- the constitution of a new management committee.

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

¹ [Pre-School Inspection – Naíscoil an Iúir, Newry, County Down \(etini.gov.uk\)](https://etini.gov.uk)

Key findings

The outcomes for learners remain as good.

Almost all of the children engage in self-initiated, purposeful play for sustained periods of time. They are developing well their creativity, problem solving and perseverance as they play collaboratively across the playroom and, in particular, at the role-play and construction areas. Their representational artwork is of a good standard for the time of year, as is their understanding and use of Irish.

The quality of provision remains as good.

There is now a consistent approach in place to the cycle of planning, observation and assessment with a clear focus on the intended learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Planning for specific vocabulary in Irish is required to improve further the quality and consistency of the immersion experience for all children. The staff know the children well and interact skilfully with them. They have created well-resourced and stimulating learning environments, in both the indoor playroom and in the newly-developed outdoor area. The learning environments provide a good range of opportunities for the children to initiate and extend their learning across the curriculum.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership and management have improved and are now good.

The staff work effectively as a team and are supported very well in their work by their EYS and the new management committee. A shared understanding and improved process of self-evaluation and action planning is now in place which has effected improvements in the cycle of planning, observation and assessment and provision for outdoor learning; the management committee are fully informed about the improvement process. The staff have identified the need to embed the self-evaluation and action planning processes to continue to raise the quality of the provision and the outcomes for learners.

Overall effectiveness

Naíscoil an Iúir now demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interests of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the naíscoil sustains improvement in:

- embedding the recently introduced process of self-evaluation to continue to raise the quality of provision and outcomes for learners.

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