

Education and Training Inspectorate PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Naíscoil na Banna, Portadown, County Armagh

Irish-medium, voluntary DE Ref No: 5BB-0392

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in January 2020



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Introduction

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Naíscoil na Banna in December 2018¹ which concluded that the naíscoil needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were to:

- review the organisation of the day to ensure there is an appropriate balance between free-play and adult-led activities;
- develop further the cycle of planning, observation and assessment to guide more effectively the learning and teaching and raise the outcomes for all children; and
- continue to develop a systematic approach to self-evaluation and planning for improvement.

The naíscoil's action plans were of a good quality. The naíscoil's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in October 2019 and a follow-up inspection in January 2020.

During this period, other actions or changes which affect the work of the naíscoil include:

- the staff have continued to receive external support and have attended a number of capacity building courses provided by Altram;
- a number of significant changes have been made on the management committee; and
- a parent-led initiative to promote and support the naíscoil, and the Irish language, in the community has been established.

Key findings

The quality of provision is now good. The staff plan a good range of interesting activities which promote effective learning across the pre-school curriculum. The revised layout of the room and organisation of the day: allow for suitably extended periods of free-play; promote further the children's self-management skills and independence; and, improve the overall quality of the experiences for the children. The short-term planning outlines clearly the intended learning and the associated planning for the role of the adult now guides the staff more effectively in providing learning experiences which meet the needs of all of the children. Regular observations and assessments are used, in the best practice, to identify the needs of the children and inform future planning; however this practice is not yet sufficiently consistent. The staff have identified appropriately the need to embed further this process.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The staff have been supported well in developing their knowledge and understating of self-evaluation by the early years' specialist from Altram. As a result, the staff are more reflective in their practice and articulate a shared understanding of the process of self-evaluation leading to improvement. The targets for improvement within the action plans do not focus sufficiently enough on the desired impact on the outcomes for learners or the quality of the provision.

¹ <https://www.eti.gov.uk/publications/pre-school-inspection-naiscoil-na-banna-portadown-county-armagh>

Naíscoil na Banna demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the naíscoil sustains improvement in:

- improving further the cycle of planning, observation and assessment to ensure consistency in the quality and use of observations to inform planning for individual children; and
- continuing to embed the process of self-evaluation leading to improvement.

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