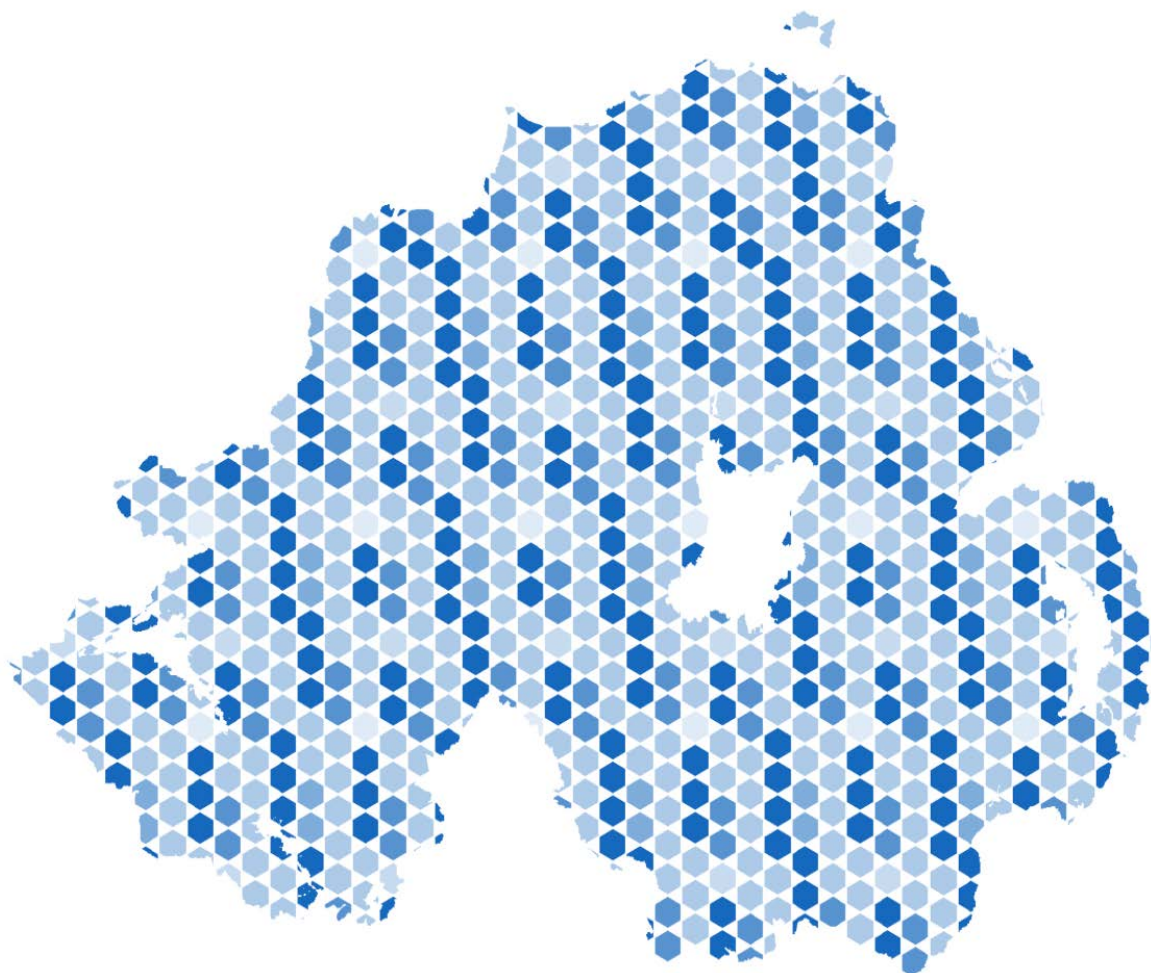


SPECIAL SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Park School and Outreach
Service, Belfast

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in June 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 PARK SCHOOL AND OUTREACH SERVICE, BELFAST (131-6500)

The original inspection carried out in November 2014¹ concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners. A follow-up inspection was conducted in March 2016² and concluded that in the areas inspected the school demonstrated improvement. The school, however, needed to continue to address important areas for improvement in the interests of the learners. The areas for improvement included the need to:

- develop further the strategic planning of the school;
- the provision for careers education; and
- review and improve the monitoring and evaluation of the learning, and outcomes of the pupils.

As a consequence, the Department of Education made the decision that the school remained within from the Formal Intervention Process under the Every School a Good School policy on 19 May 2016.

The school's action plans were of a good quality and were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI. The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in September 2016.

In the interval since the previous follow-up inspection, the following key actions which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- an associate principal is leading and supporting the school, through a part-time arrangement. An acting principal and acting vice-principal have been appointed with an additional three teachers to the senior leadership team;
- pupil enrolment has fallen from 123 in 2014/15 to 97 at the time of the follow-up inspection;
- six teachers have left the school;
- the teachers have completed a comprehensive staff development programme for the provision of careers education, information, advice and guidance, numeracy, literacy and planning for learning;
- the Education Authority has provided support for careers provision and curriculum development;
- the provision for careers education information advice and guidance has been revised and reorganised to incorporate whole school planning for careers and the use of the Prince's Trust programme; and
- the pupils' school day has been altered to include base class teaching, for example in literacy and numeracy.

¹ <http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/inspection-reports/inspection-reports-special-education/inspection-reports-special-education-2015/special-inspection-park-school-and-education-resource-centre.pdf>

² <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/follow-up-inspection-park-education-resource-centre-belfast.PDF>

Key Findings

The outcomes for learners remain an area for improvement.

A concise, comprehensive system for monitoring pupil progression has been agreed by all staff and is now in use for each pupil. By the end of key stage (KS) 3 almost all of the pupils attain very well in mathematics and information and communication technology (ICT), and half of the pupils attain well in English. The leadership team need to analyse all pupil outcomes at the end of the academic year from the monitoring data, along with the results of the pupils' accredited assessments and to use the resulting analysis to better inform the planning for learning.

The quality of provision remains good.

All of the teaching observed was effective, with appropriate pupil use of ICT in the majority of the classes. An effective collaborative approach to planning for learning has been agreed, and is now used by all staff. There remains a need for teachers to continue to share and adopt the most effective practice for evaluating progress, learning and teaching within the school. The provision for careers education, information, advice and guidance has improved substantially through a documented focus within the planning for learning and includes the organisation of work placements and work experience for almost all of the pupils in KS 4. Beneficial links have been established with local businesses and a range of organisations, for example, the Prince's Trust facilitate practice interviews with the pupils.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good.

A reorganised and expanded leadership team has been established and is competently led and supported by the highly experienced associate principal. The team are addressing the strategic planning for the school, with comprehensive preparation for a new school development plan, and have in place appropriate and effective systems for the professional development and support for all staff. Members of the team have begun to observe learning and teaching throughout the school, and provide feedback to teachers; they have identified the need to embed and extend this practice. Key co-ordinators for literacy and numeracy have been appointed and are at an early stage of developing, monitoring and evaluating their subject areas.

Overall effectiveness

Park School and Outreach Service needs to address important areas for improvement. The follow-up inspection has identified the following important areas for improvement:

- to identify and disseminate the most effective practice for learning within the school; and
- embed and extend further the monitoring and evaluation of the learning and outcomes for the pupils.

Further action will be considered by the Department of Education.

Health and safety / Accommodation

1. Some of the classroom doors require vision panels.

© 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