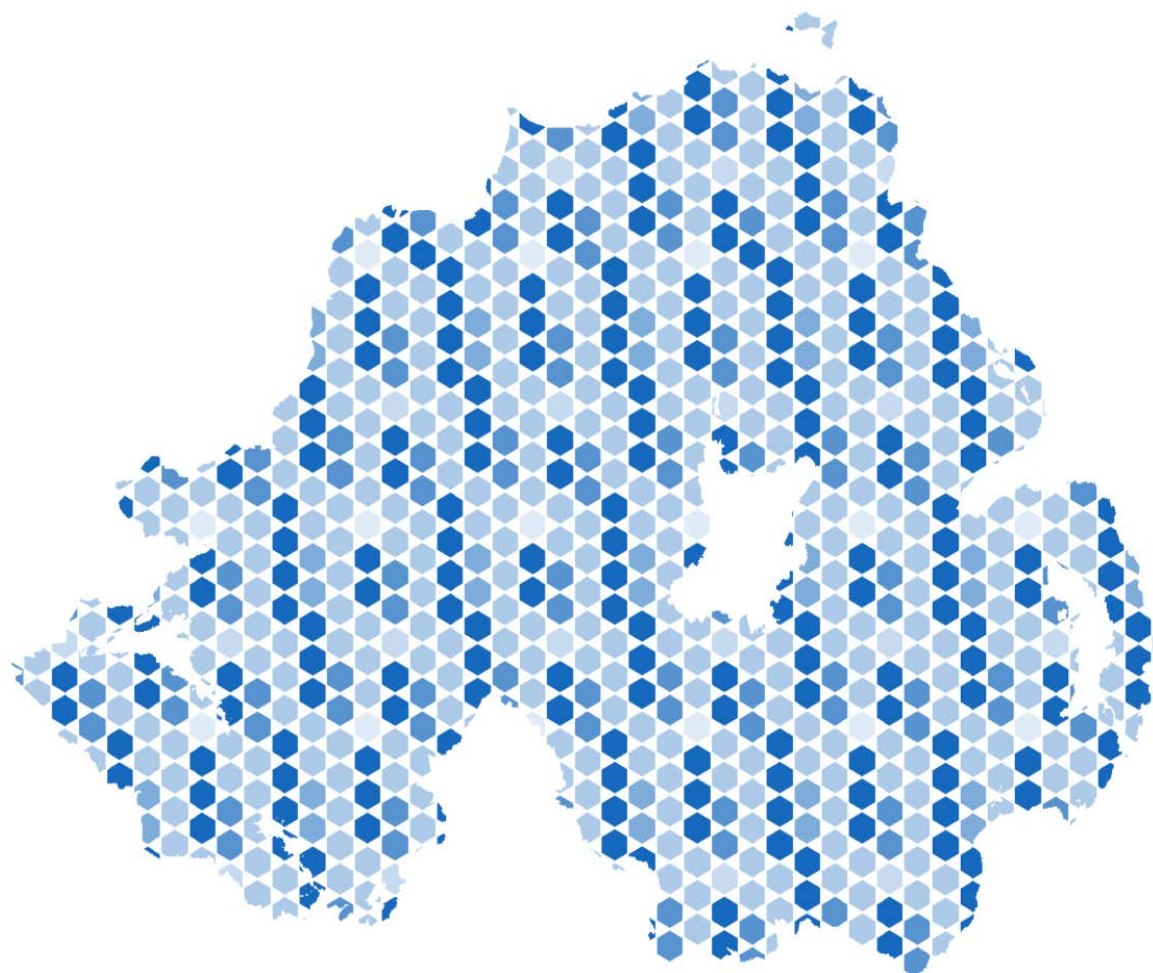


SPECIAL SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Park School and Outreach
Service, Belfast

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in November 2018



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 Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a second follow-up inspection of Park School and Outreach Service in June 2017¹, which concluded that the school needed to address 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.

As a consequence, the Department of Education made the decision that the school exited the Formal Intervention Process under the Every School a Good School policy on 22 November 2017.

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 January 2018, and a third follow-up inspection in November 2018.

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

- pupil enrolment has risen from 97 in 2016/17 to 113 at the time of the follow-up inspection;
- attendance has risen for pupils from 86.6% in 2016/17 to 90.5% at the time of the follow-up inspection;
- six new teachers have been appointed to the school;
- the absenteeism rate for teachers has fallen from 5% for 2016/17 to 1.65% for the 2017/18 school year;
- the teachers have completed a comprehensive staff development programme to address a wide range of areas including understanding memory difficulties; emotional and behavioural difficulties; using information and communication technology (ICT); developing resilience in pupils; and using strategies effectively for mental mathematics; and
- the pupils' school day has been altered to include increased base class teaching for mathematics and literacy.

The Education Authority (EA) support officer has guided the school leadership effectively in developing a collegiate and comprehensive approach to school improvement planning.

¹ www.etini.gov/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/follow-up-inspection-park-school-and-outreach-service-belfast-131-6500_1.pdf

Key Findings

The outcomes for learners are now very good.

The school provided data which indicates improvement for all of the pupils through appropriate targets attained in numeracy, literacy, and ICT. Almost all the school targets for literacy and numeracy have been exceeded. A comprehensive and effective system for monitoring and evaluating progression is in use for each pupil. The leadership team analyse skilfully all KS3 and KS4 pupil outcomes from available data, including the results of accredited assessments. The comprehensive analysis is used effectively to inform very well the planning for learning. The behaviour of the pupils during the time of the inspection was exemplary, and they demonstrated thoughtful care and concern for their peers.

The data for the outreach service during 2017/18 indicates that all mainstream pupils receiving support increased their reading age, with 73% attaining increases of one year or more.

The quality of provision is now very good.

All of the teaching observed was highly effective, with a wide range of enjoyable activities and appropriate use of ICT by pupils in the classes. The timetables have been re-organised to provide longer class periods consequently there is less movement around the school. Individual education plans are comprehensive with clear targets based on individual assessments, well-focused learning strategies and appropriate resources. The teachers' planning for learning is monitored and evaluated regularly by form teachers and school leaders. The key subject co-ordinators lead the teachers in regular sessions to disseminate and discuss the most effective practice for learning and teaching, leading to improved classroom provision. As a result of the changes there is enhanced pupil engagement in learning, highly positive working relationships within a nurturing environment, and significant improvement in the behaviour of the pupils.

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

The school leadership team has developed an effective collegial approach to all school development. Supported by the associate principal and EA officer, the team has prepared an effective school development plan, and associated action plans which are monitored effectively. They have appropriate on-going professional development and support for all staff in place. Members of the senior leadership team observe learning and teaching throughout the school, and provide detailed feedback to teachers. The co-ordinators for literacy and numeracy monitor and evaluate effectively their subject areas and demonstrate lessons for staff to observe their classroom teaching. The highly effective feedback and demonstrations to teachers have had a positive impact on the quality of learning and teaching. The teachers have agreed to extend this practice enabling observation of teaching between colleagues throughout the school with further dissemination of good practice.

Overall effectiveness

Park School and Outreach Service demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school and service sustains improvement in providing a curriculum and accreditation opportunities to enable the pupils to achieve their full potential.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2018

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