

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

## PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

St Brigid's Pre-school Centre, Mountfield,  
Omagh, County Tyrone

Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No (2BB-0593)

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in June 2022



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## Follow-up to the inspection of St Brigid's Pre-School Centre, Mountfield, BT79 7PT (2BB-0593)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of St Brigid's Pre-school Centre in May 2019<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the pre-school needed to address important areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were to:

- review the organisation of the day and make more effective use of all of the time and routines for the development of language and learning; and
- develop further the short-term planning and identify more clearly the learning potential in the areas of play and ensure that the staff interaction is consistently of a higher quality.

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

The ETI carried out a monitoring visit in February 2022 and a follow-up inspection in June 2022.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the pre-school has received external support from the Early Years Organisation (EYO) which included on-line training with local pre-school cluster groups.

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

- the relocation of the playgroup from a room in St Brigid's Primary School to a building in the village, with continued access to the primary school's grounds for their outdoor provision;
- the staff's engagement in a range of professional learning including physical development and movement, early language development teaching strategies, in-house training on the Speech and Language Wellcomm toolkit and Special Education Needs training and support from the Education Authority's Special Educational Needs (SEN) Inclusion Service;
- employment of an additional staff member through the Engage II funding; and
- development of the indoor and outdoor play provision.

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

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<sup>1</sup> [Pre-school Inspection – St Brigid's Playgroup, Mountfield, County Tyrone](#)

## Key findings

The outcomes for learners have improved and are now very good. The happy, well-settled children are confident with all of the daily routines. They engage independently with sustained levels of concentration and show respect for their peers and learning environment. During their play, the children use naturally a range of early mathematical language and have a very good awareness of number, shape, space, time and pattern. The children have very good fine and gross motor skills. They handle with confidence small tools, for example, scissors and small knives and they engage in outdoor energetic play with very good control, balance and co-ordination skills. The children make good use of a range of drawing and mark-making tools and have made very good progress in their representational drawings. All of the children can recognise their names and most are beginning to write them independently. They engage in spontaneous singing and use a range of percussion instruments to accompany themselves and to keep a steady beat. The children are curious about the World Around Us and ask appropriate questions to gain more knowledge.

The quality of provision has improved and is now very good. The clear routines established by the staff support well the development of the children's independence and promote positive behaviour. The staff are all skilled practitioners and have a very good understanding of the pre-school curriculum. They provide a language-rich learning environment with a wide range of real and authentic resources. The staff make very good use of open-ended questions in their interactions with the children to promote purposeful play and successfully generate a sense of fun and enjoyment in learning. The short-term planning outlines clearly the learning potential and is informed effectively by the staff's observation and assessment of the children's interests and needs. As a result, the staff use every opportunity successfully to build on the children's ideas to enhance their curiosity, thinking and problem solving and extend their language and learning across the six areas of the pre-school curriculum.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement have improved and are now very good. Leadership and staff work well collegially, are reflective practitioners and can clearly articulate the impact of the actions to promote improvement on the outcomes for learners and the quality of provision. They have identified further areas for improvement and have put in place good quality action plans and robust monitoring and evaluation processes to inform ongoing self-evaluation. Strategic use was made of the Engage II funding to focus on the development of the children's language skills; the impact of which has been demonstrated by the significant improvement in the children's understanding and use of language.

## Overall effectiveness

St Brigid's Playgroup now demonstrates a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all learners. The ETI will monitor how the pre-school sustains improvement.

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