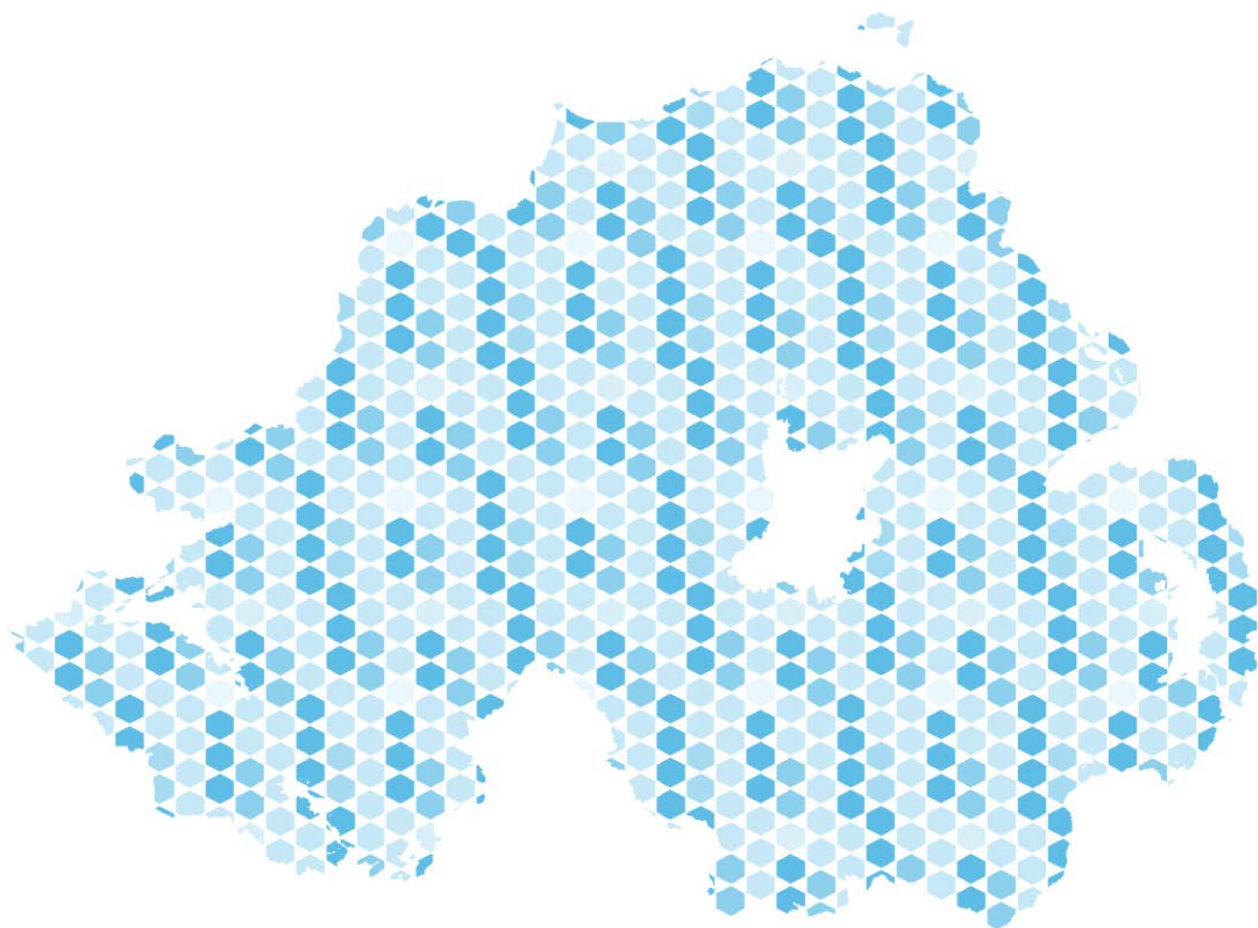


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Brigid's Primary School,
Altamuskin, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in May 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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CUSTOMER
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST BRIGID'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ALTAMUSKIN, COUNTY TYRONE, BT79 9JA (203-2573)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of St Brigid's Primary School in October 2015¹, which concluded that the school needed to address urgently significant areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were to:

- develop the capacity of leadership and management at all levels, in order to monitor and evaluate robustly the school's provision and set appropriate targets for further development and improvement; and
- address the safeguarding matters identified in the original report.

As a consequence, the Department of Education entered the school into the Formal Intervention Process under the Every School a Good School Policy in November, 2015.

The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The ETI carried out two safeguarding inspection visits in November 2015 and March 2017; and, an interim follow-up visit to the school in January 2017.

The ETI carried out a follow-up inspection in May 2017.

Forty-four percent of parents responded to the re-issued confidential questionnaires and the responses were almost all highly positive. In addition, a small number of parents, who reported that they had completed the parental questionnaire, met the inspectors and praised highly the life and work of the school. The responses from teaching and support staff questionnaires were wholly positive. The findings were shared with the principal and governors.

In the interval since the initial inspection, actions or changes which affect the work of the school include:

- the management of the reduction in the teaching staff by the principal and governors, the restructuring of the composite classes and reassignment of class teacher responsibilities;
- the appointment of a new chair of the board of governors in December 2016;
- the training and support provided by the Education Authority (EA) for safeguarding and middle management; and
- the support of the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools (CCMS) for the establishment of the sub-committees of the board of governors to oversee the improvement process and to manage the school building work.

¹ [Primary Inspection - St Brigid's Primary School, Altamuskin, County Tyrone | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

Key findings

- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now an important area for improvement. Leadership of the school now has an increased understanding of how to monitor and evaluate the school's provision. The co-ordinators are developing their capacity for leadership and management and have begun to adopt a more collegial approach to school improvement. There is, however, variation in the quality of the action plans; the targets do not focus sufficiently on teaching and the outcomes for the children's learning experiences and progress.
- During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding now reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. In discussion with a group of year 6 children, they reported that they are happy in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their well-being. The school council plays an important role by informing their peers about the arrangements for safeguarding.
- The leadership and management of the board of governors has improved and is evident in the development of their support and challenge functions. The governors identify clearly ongoing aspects of the development planning cycle which require improvement including the analysis and use of a broader range of the school's data to inform target-setting for improvement. Based on the evidence available at the time of the follow-up inspection, the ETI's evaluation is that there can be confidence in the aspects of governance evaluated. There are aspects of governance to review, namely to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the impact of the development plan and the associated action plans.
- The quality of the learning and teaching observed, during the follow-up inspection, ranged from good to outstanding. The school continues to ensure progression, breadth and balance in the provision for literacy and an appropriate emphasis on early intervention and supporting children with additional literacy needs. The staff are working diligently to sustain the very good literacy standards achieved by the children.
- It continues to be important that the employing authority, governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

Overall effectiveness

The follow-up inspection of St Brigid's Primary School has identified the following important area for improvement:

- the staff need to make more evaluative use of the range of information gathered about learning and teaching in order to inform the setting of more rigorous baselines and targets in the action plans.

The ETI will conduct a further follow-up inspection in the next 12 to 18 months.

Accommodation

1. The privacy of the secretary's office is not secured; a hatch for visitors to conduct business at a distance from the desk is required.
2. A few classrooms have poor quality paintwork which is impacting on the quality of the children's learning environment.

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