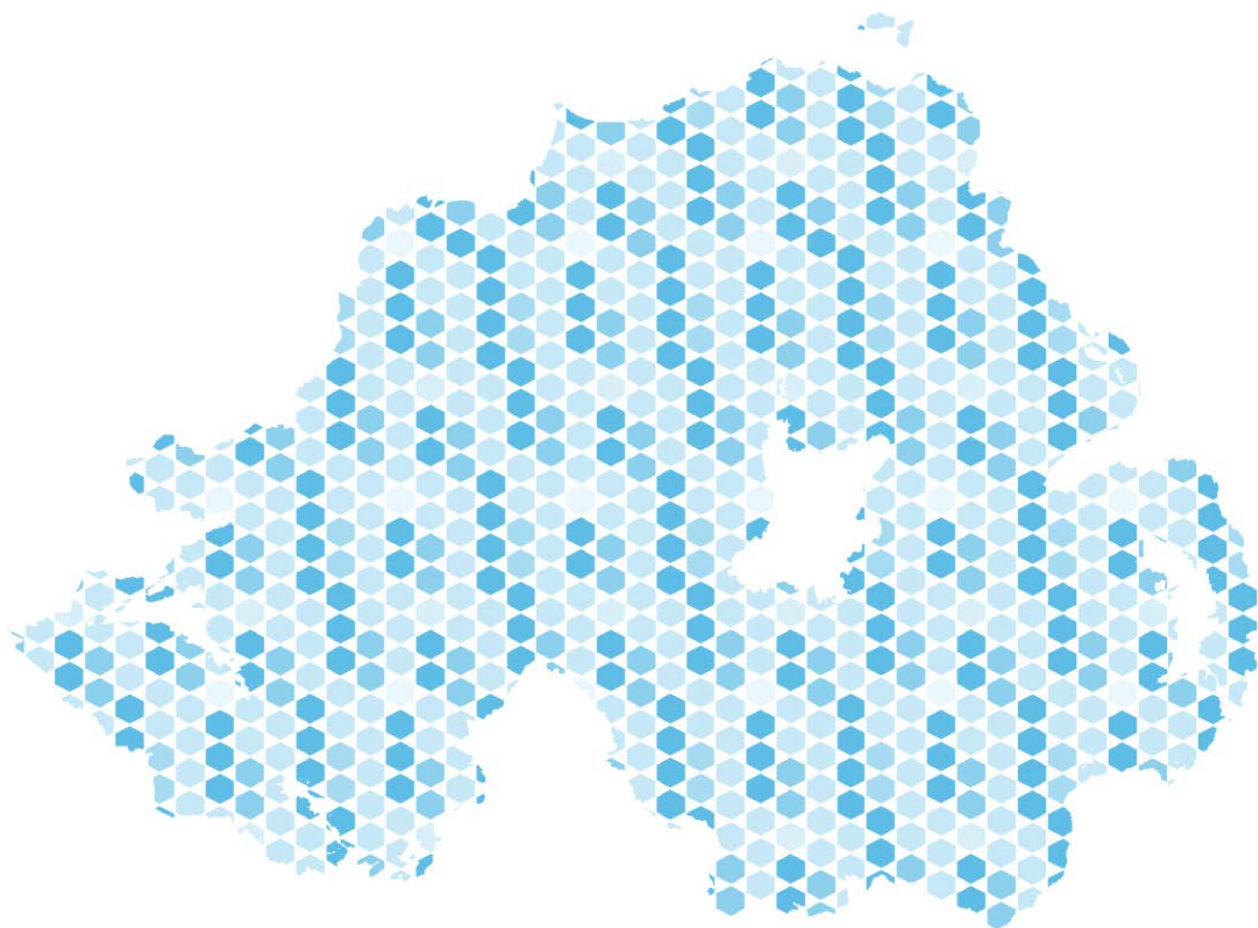


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Patrick's Primary School,
Holywood, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in October 2016

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, HOLYWOOD, COUNTY DOWN (403-1628)

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

These were the need:

- to review the roles and responsibilities in the management structure to ensure there are sufficient co-ordinators to take forward the necessary improvements and to heighten their involvement in the school development planning process;
- to develop further the play-based curriculum to take more account of the children's previous learning and to ensure appropriate progression in the children's learning; and
- address the safeguarding arrangements outlined in the report.

The action plans received by the Department of Education following the inspection were of a very good quality. The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an interim follow-up visit in January 2016 to evaluate the improvements in safeguarding and a further two monitoring visits in April and May 2016 and a follow-up inspection in October 2016.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- a new principal took up post in December 2015; a review of the senior leadership teams roles and responsibilities was undertaken;
- new co-ordinators for special educational needs and information and communication technology were appointed;
- all co-ordinators received training and support, including visits to other schools, attendance at cluster meetings for the dissemination of good practice and internal professional development opportunities;
- the school received significant support from the School Development Service of the Education Authority;
- the school council was re-established;
- a range of policies in relation to the areas for improvement were created;
- a new designated governor for safeguarding was identified and received training; and
- new subject teams, including one for play-based learning, were established.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/primary-inspection-st-patricks-primary-school-holywood-county-down.pdf>

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The principal has worked very effectively, supported by the staff and governors to address the key areas identified for improvement in the inspection report. Staff have been empowered to lead effectively the work in their key areas of responsibility and there is now a collegiate and clearly child-centred approach to school improvement. The role of the middle management team has been significantly improved, they are now leading effectively the newly established subject teams in bringing about a range of improvements.

Self-evaluation is developing well within the school with rigorous evaluation of the quality of the planning and areas for further development identified at individual teacher and whole school level. Clear action plans have been created which have informed effectively the development of learning and teaching across the school. All of the subject co-ordinators have provided the governors with overviews of their key areas of learning to ensure that they are well-informed about the developmental work within the school.

The quality of learning and teaching is good or very good. The planning for the key areas under focus has been reviewed to provide more effective guidance for the staff. Through rigorous analysis and use of data, the school is able to identify aspects for further development and can clearly demonstrate improvement in the outcomes for the children. All of the pastoral documents have been reviewed and amended to reflect more fully the practices and very positive ethos within the school. Play-based learning is now meeting more effectively the learning needs of the children within the foundation stage. All of the teaching observed during the follow-up process was good or very good; the teachers are implementing very effectively the developmental work that has been undertaken throughout the school.

The standards and achievements in English and mathematics remain very good. Most of the children are achieving in line with expectation in English and mathematics.

The district inspector visited the school in January 2016 to undertake a review of the safeguarding arrangements and on the basis of the evidence available throughout the follow-up process, the school has now comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children.

Conclusion

St Patrick's Primary School demonstrates the capacity to bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement in leadership and management and in the provision for learning.

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