## St Malachy's Primary School and Nursery, Kilcoo

## Inspection Summary Report - January 2025

- The shared values of 'Love, Care, Share' are embedded deeply in the school's culture, underpinning every aspect of the work of the school, and are evident in the respectful relationships and the nurturing, supportive learning environment.
- All members of the school community feel safe, valued and heard.
- The school leader has worked at pace to implement transformational improvements, including enhancing the physical and digital learning environment, strengthening staff professional learning and development, and fostering a collaborative and reflective school community.
- The areas for development outlined in the school development plan are appropriate and there is evidence of a positive impact on the children's numeracy and digital skills as a result of current improvement work.
- There is a consistent approach to planning across the school; the approach to planning for the progression of children's learning within the nursery is of a high quality.
- The unique skills and talents of the staff and members of the wider school community are utilised effectively to enhance and broaden the children's learning experiences.
- There is equity and fairness at all levels and all staff ensure that every child receives the support and encouragement needed to succeed. As a result, the children are happy and achieve well.
- The positive relationships between the staff and the parents are supported by effective communication.
- At the time of the inspection, the evidence provided by the school demonstrates that the arrangements for child protection align to the current statutory guidance.

Areas for action:

- to implement the planned monitoring and evaluation of children's work across the curriculum to identify and share the most effective practices within the school; and
- to develop further the progression in longand medium-term planning, in particular the development of the children's thinking skills, across the primary school.

## **Going forward**

- St Malachy's Primary School and Nursery's vision is child-centred, guided by the shared values of 'Love, Care, Share', which permeate the entire school community. The children are proud of their school; they feel safe and happy, are making good progress, and their achievements are celebrated by the caring staff.
- Through the work of the district inspector, ETI will monitor the progress of St Malachy's Primary School and Nursery in addressing the areas for action as laid out in this report.
- Inspectors also identified aspects of highly effective practice from which others may learn. The aspects of practice which should be shared more widely include:
  - the development and embedding of shared values which guide every area of the life and work of the school; and
  - the highly effective approach to planning in the nursery unit which enables all children to have access to a stimulating and balanced curriculum and make good progress.

