

Education and Training Inspectorate PRIMARY INSPECTION



Ballymacrickett Primary School and Nursery Unit, Glenavy, County Antrim

Maintained, co-educational DE ref no (403-0823)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection in February 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Ballymacrickett Primary School and Nursery Unit, Glenavy, County Antrim (403-0823)

Introduction

The previous inspection in February 2016, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Ballymacrickett Primary School and Nursery Unit as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 27 February 2019.

Focus of the inspection

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The line of inquiry during the SII was:

- to raise further the quality of the children's learning experiences and outcomes in writing.

Key findings

- There is a whole-school, collegial approach to continuous improvement and a shared vision to provide high quality child-centred provision that reflects the school's motto, 'Happy Together, Learning Forever'. Leadership at all levels is highly strategic, collaborative and reflective. In literacy, the well-embedded processes of self-evaluation are underpinned by rigorous monitoring and evaluating and effective use is made of a range of qualitative and quantitative data to: set whole-school, class and individual targets for improvement; provide high quality capacity building opportunities for all staff; plan effective interventions; and, track progress in learning.
- During the inspection, all of the lessons observed were very good or outstanding. The teachers used effectively a range of creative and active approaches to develop high quality learning and teaching in all of the well-resourced, stimulating and appropriately-challenging lessons. Planning in literacy is of a very high quality and provides meaningful opportunities for the children to: write for a range of purposes and audiences; make connections within and across the curriculum; and, use information and communication technology with confidence to enhance their learning in literacy and present their written work.
- Across the school, the children engage fully and actively in their learning. They take pride in their written work, which is of a consistently high standard, and use confidently the wide range of excellent resources to consolidate and extend their learning. In the nursery, the children: produce high quality representational artwork; mark independently for a range of purposes; and, many are able to write their own names. The children, from foundation stage to the end of key stage 2: write independently across a range of genres; plan, draft and edit their own work with increasing confidence and competence; and, value the opportunities they have to contribute to the shared whole-school writing displays that create a celebratory, literacy-rich environment. In discussion with the inspectors, a selection of year 7 children spoke enthusiastically about their enjoyment of all aspects of their literacy learning and of their aspirations to pursue careers which involve writing, owing to their experiences in school.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. The year 6 children, with whom the inspectors met, reported that they feel safe in school and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. The children know how to keep safe online, when at school or at home.

Conclusion

Ballymacrickett Primary School and Nursery Unit continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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