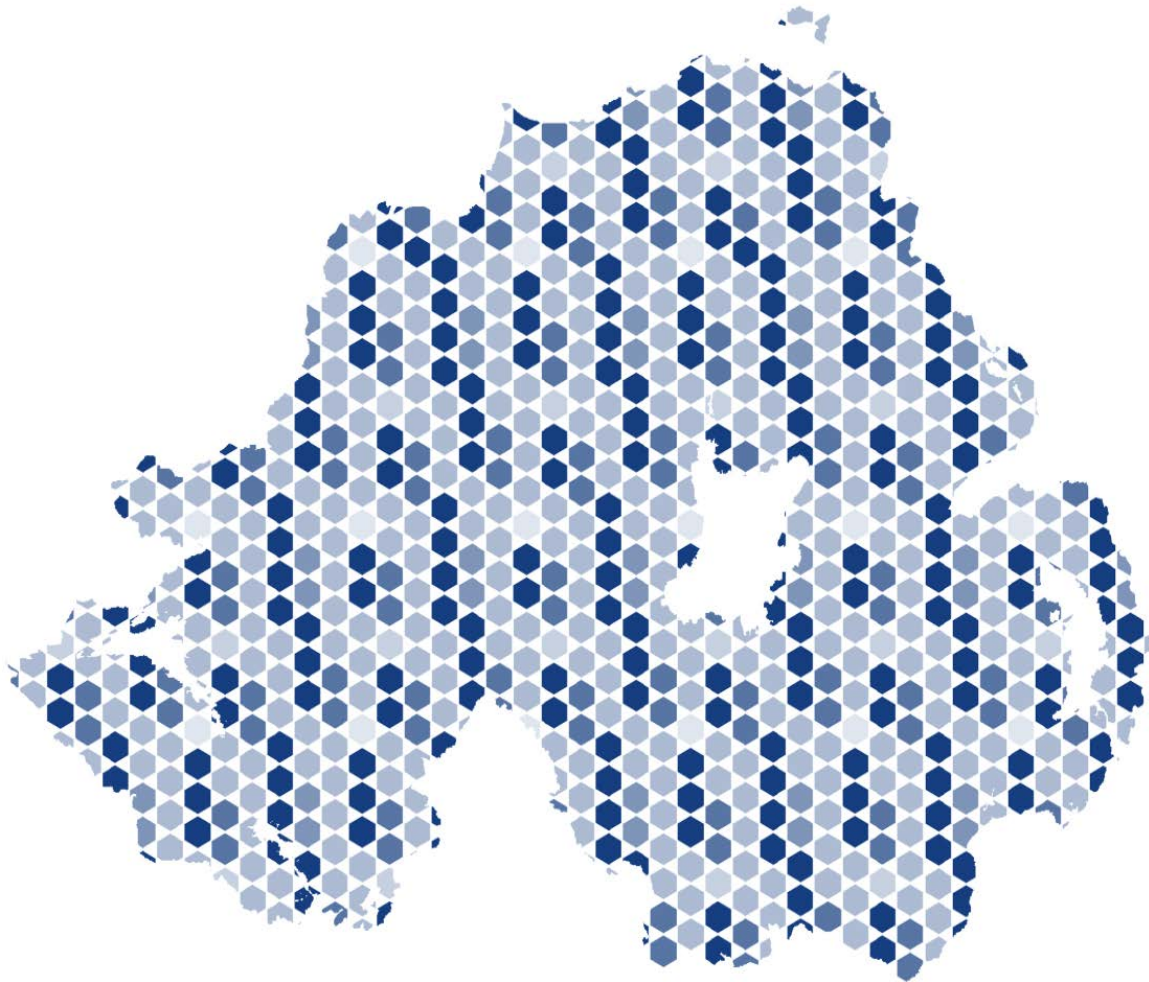


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ballymoney High School,
County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational non-selective 11-16 school

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in November 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Ballymoney High School (321-0133)

Introduction

In the follow-up inspection held in October 2014, Ballymoney High School was evaluated overall as good¹. In the intervening period, a new principal has been appointed. The senior leadership team has been re-structured and extended.

A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 22 and 23 November 2017. The purpose of the SII was to evaluate 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 lines of enquiry during the SII were to:

- develop leadership at all levels throughout the school, including among the pupils; and
- sustain and build on the improvement in the standards the pupils attain.

Key findings

- There has been a sustained and effective development of leadership at all levels. A collegial ethos has been established within the senior leadership team (SLT) along with a consistent emphasis on capacity-building through accredited courses, in-school training and the associate senior leaders' initiative. The re-structuring of the SLT has enabled the senior leaders to take on appropriately strategic roles to implement the school's well-articulated vision for improvement. The pupils benefit from taking on such responsibilities as peer mentors, form captains, in the school council and in digital leadership.
- Overall, the outcomes attained by the pupils are improving; the proportion of pupils, for example, achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A* to C has risen from 72% in 2015 to 81% in 2017, which is above the average for similar schools. This significant improvement is underpinned by the development of a more flexible curriculum which is matched more closely to the interests, abilities and needs of the pupils. A majority of the pupils progress to level 3 courses in other schools or the local college of further education. Sustaining and raising further the outcomes the pupils attain remains an area for ongoing focus.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding pupils reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. In discussions with the inspectors, the pupils reported that they feel safe and secure in school and that they know who to speak to if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.

Conclusion

Ballymoney High School continues to demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the pupils. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as good is reported as 'the school is demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.'

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