

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ballywalter Primary School,
Ballywalter, County Down

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in April 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Ballywalter Primary School, Ballywalter, Newtownards, County Down (401-1566)

Introduction

The previous inspection in April 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Ballywalter Primary school as very good.¹ A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 30 April 2018.

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 lines of inquiry during the SII were to:

- raise further the quality of the children's learning experience in literacy, in particular, in the key areas of reading and writing, by merging the use of digital technologies with more traditional approaches; and
- enhance pastorally the children's resilience and well-being through initiatives such the 'Happy to be Me' programme.

Key findings

- The school's recent emphasis on and investment in digital technology were apparent in the confidence and enthusiasm with which the majority of the children used the technology to support their learning in all of the lessons observed. The children's ready engagement reflects the teachers' collegiate understanding of how to plan for the progressive integration of new technologies across the key stages which support in a purposeful way the development of the children's literacy skills. A selection of year 6 and 7 children discussed willingly their reading preferences and read fluently with appropriate pace.
- The staff provide a range of programmes and opportunities for the children to increase their resilience, sense of self-worth and confidence, evident in the awards distributed at the assembly during the inspection and in the exemplary behaviour exhibited by the children and the ease with which many of them were able to discuss their learning with visitors. The children report positively about the benefits of initiatives, such as, the 'Happy to be Me' programme for the delivery of which the school has used extended school funding to train classroom assistants and so enhance their skills and development.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education.

Conclusion

Ballywalter Primary School 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.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

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