

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Botanic Primary School,
Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in June 2018

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Botanic Primary School, Belfast (101-6499)

Introduction

The previous inspection in April 2012 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Botanic Primary School as very good¹. The school engaged in a sustaining inspection pilot in June 2015 and a sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 4 and 5 June 2018. The school attained a Digital Schools Award in 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; and
- enhance the children's awareness of online safety.

Key findings

- There is a coherent and consistent approach to the collation, sharing, analysis and use of data to track the children's progress and identify underachievement. Well planned training for all staff members has supported the development of the children's comprehension skills. The school can demonstrate that focused targets and appropriate intervention strategies have led to improved outcomes for individuals and groups of children across literacy. Effective questioning was a key strength of all of the lessons observed to which the children responded confidently and used a wide range of vocabulary to express their ideas. A selection of year 7 children discussed enthusiastically their reading preferences and read fluently reflecting their understanding at an inferential level.
- The school has developed a comprehensive programme which supports the progressive development of the children's understanding of, and ability to, maintain their safety online. From an early age, the children self-regulate the use of electronic devices and have a clear understanding of online safety. The small group of children with whom the inspectors met spoke enthusiastically about their role as 'digital leaders'; the opportunity to support and guide their peers and younger children in aspects of information and communication technology (ICT); and, the film and animations they produced to raise awareness of online safety.

Safeguarding

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

Conclusion

Botanic 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 evaluated previously as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

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