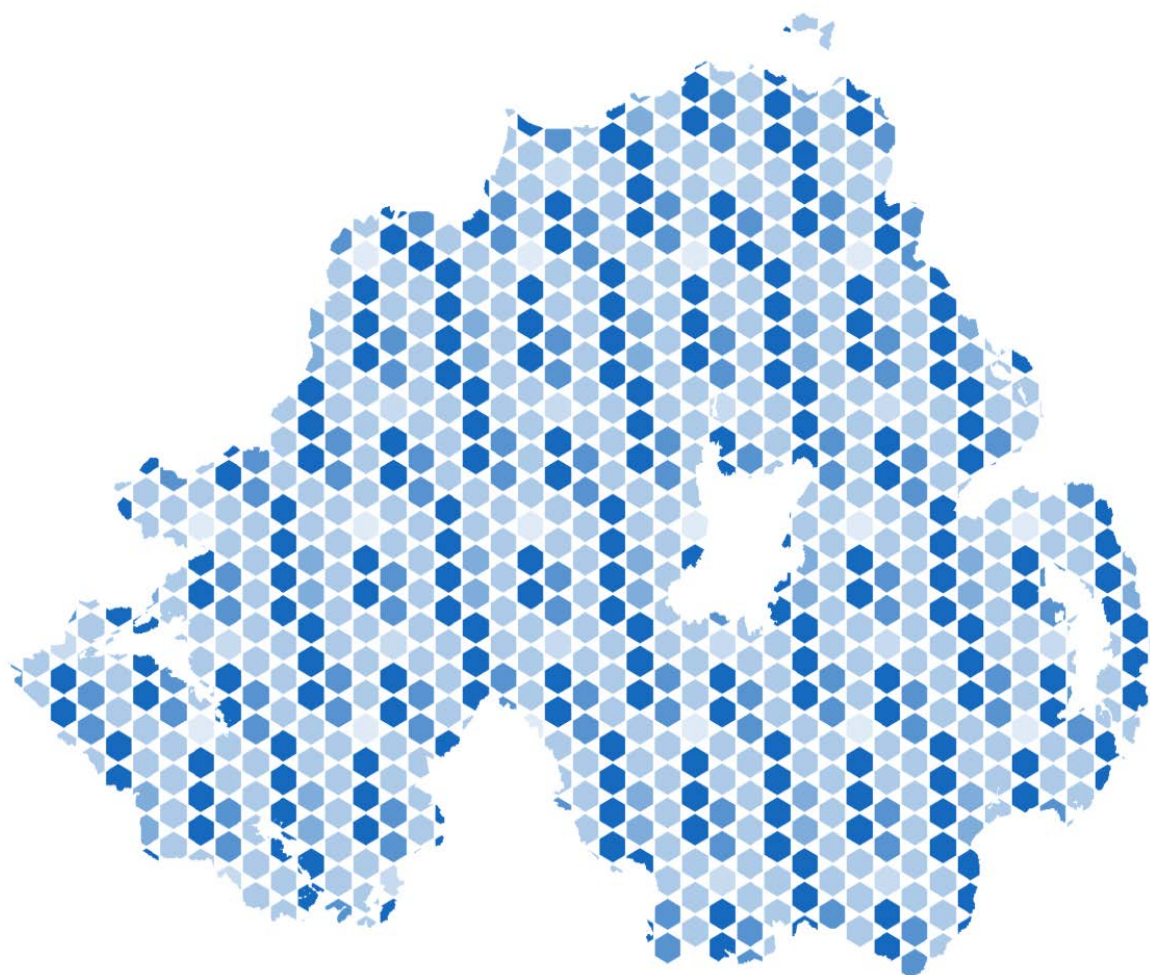


SPECIAL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Donard School, Banbridge,
County Down

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in March 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 Donard School, Banbridge, County Down (531-6520)

Introduction

The ETI carried out a sustaining improvement inspection (SII) of Donard School in September 2013. The school was evaluated as continuing to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained self improvement. A second SII was conducted on 8 March 2017.

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:

- the further development of pupil assessment procedures, linked to personal development; and
- the further development of literacy, with a particular focus on pupil functional reading skills.

Key findings

- In Donard School, there is extensive evidence that self-evaluation procedures inform clearly whole school planning leading to improvement in practice and pupil outcomes. Through highly effective leadership, discussion and agreement, all of the staff have developed a clear understanding of the range of assessment information they require to plan and provide for the pupils' personal development. The information gathered from appropriate assessment and observation is used to inform detailed planning and provision for learning. The teachers evaluate and share their own practice consistently, and there is comprehensive evidence that this has a very positive impact on the pupils' learning outcomes.
- The provision for literacy has been extensively audited and reviewed throughout the school, and, as a consequence all of the staff have agreed a thorough action plan for literacy, and in particular the progression of pupil functional reading skills. Subsequently, the school has invested in the range of reading materials available for the pupils, and completed in-house training on effective practice in the teaching of functional reading. The school leadership and the co-ordinators for literacy analyse planning and assessment, learning and teaching, and evaluate detailed tracking of individual pupil progress, providing helpful feedback to teachers. The school is able to demonstrate the impact of teacher's reflections on pupil learning targets and progression, and to quantify the positive progress made by the pupils in their engagement, functional reading skills, and comprehension.

Safeguarding

- During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect¹ the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Conclusion

- Donard 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 January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as comprehensive are reported as **reflect** the guidance.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2017

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk