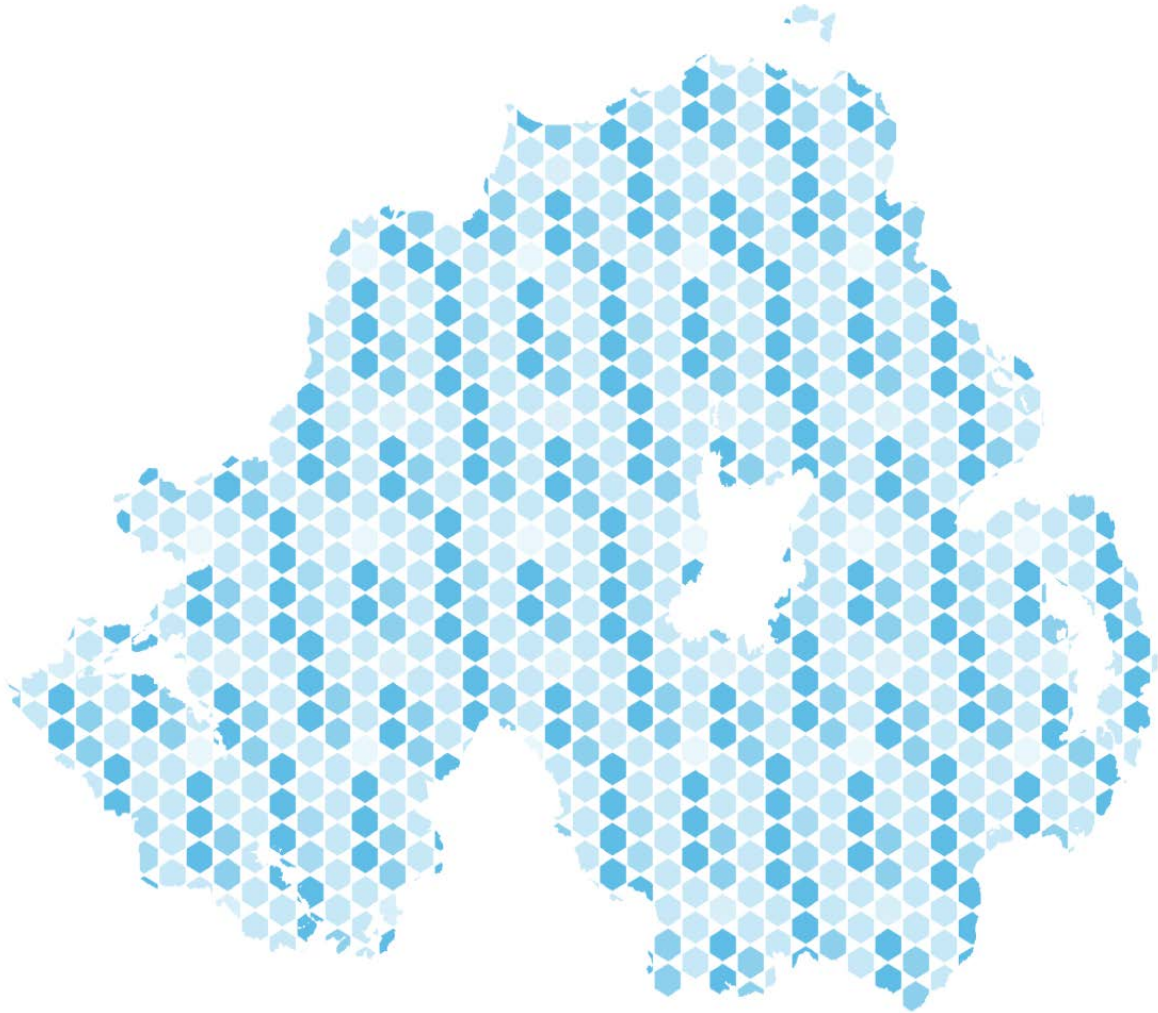


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Edwards Primary School and
Nursery Unit, Castleberg,
County Tyrone

Controlled, co-educational

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



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Edwards Primary School and Nursery Unit, Castleberg, County Tyrone (201-2638)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Edwards Primary School and Nursery Unit as outstanding¹. Over the past three years, the school's enrolment number has increased from 185 to 201 children and the school has employed an additional temporary teacher. The development of the outdoor environment has continued and provides further learning and recreational facilities.

A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 13 and 14 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:

- developments in literacy with a focus on talking and listening, reading and writing across all key stages, including age-appropriate developments in the nursery unit; and
- further use of available qualitative and quantitative data to assess and track the children's progress in literacy and mathematics.

Key findings

- The school has continued to develop activity-based and cross-curricular provision within the literacy programme across all key stages; there are appropriate links with the nursery unit pre-school curriculum provision at an age appropriate level. Of particular note is a current focus in key stage (KS) 2 on the study of the key themes within the works of Shakespeare. This project has impacted positively on the KS2 children by creating considerable interest and enthusiasm for all aspects of the literacy and language curriculum.
- The available performance data is analysed rigorously to identify trends, track the progress of children in numeracy and literacy and provide appropriate interventions. Almost all of the children are achieving in line with or above expectations; there has been a significant rise in the number of children overachieving in both literacy and numeracy.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect² the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. During discussions with year 6, the children report that they feel safe in the school and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

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.

² From January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as comprehensive are reported as reflect the guidance.

Conclusion

Edwards 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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