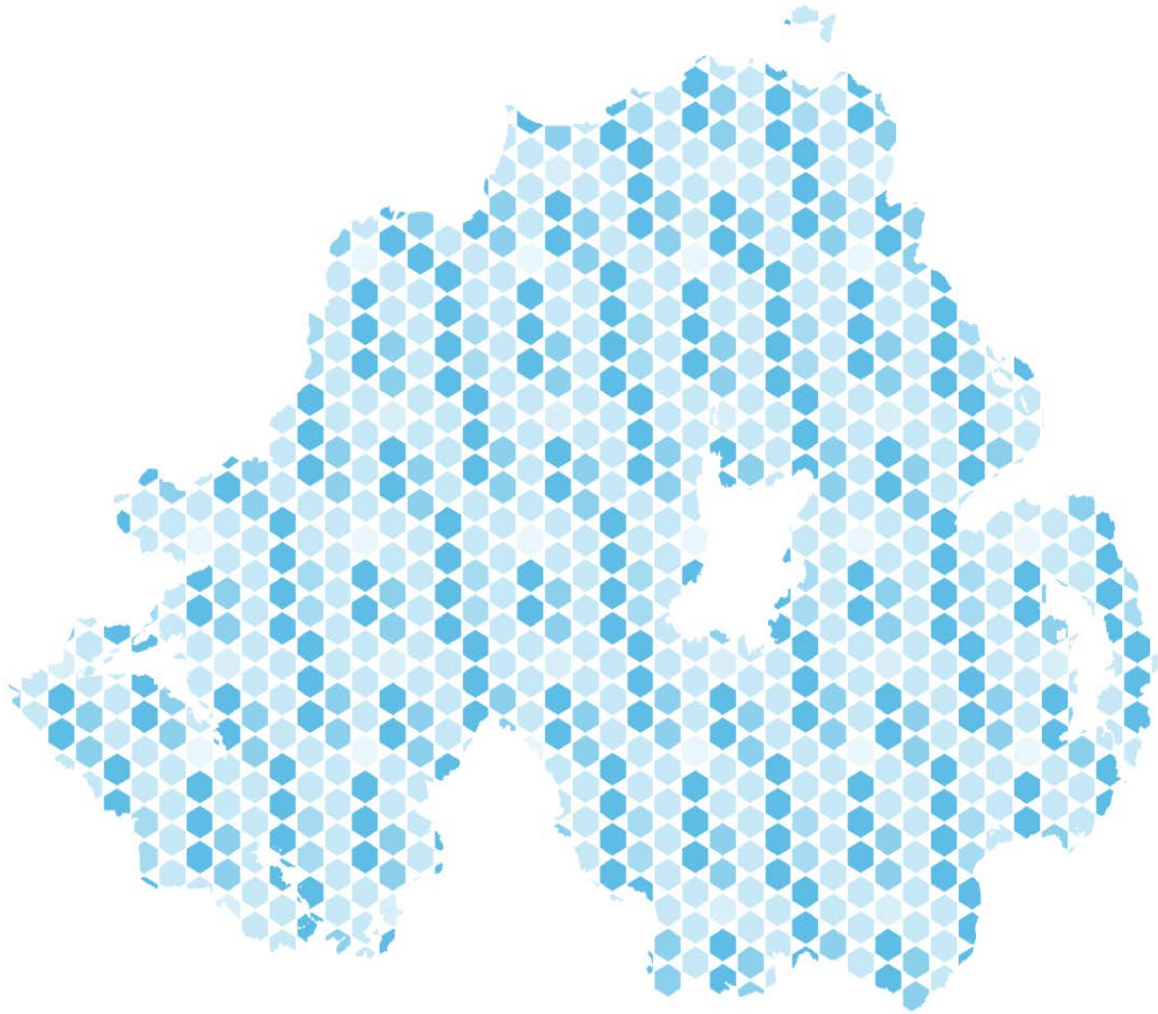


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Holy Cross Boys' Primary
School, Belfast

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 Holy Cross Boys' Primary School, Belfast (103-0194)

Introduction

The previous inspection in November 2013, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Holy Cross Boys' Primary School as outstanding¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 27 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 effective use of whole school data to inform learning and teaching; and
- the development of a whole school 'Philosophy Programme' to enhance thinking skills and guide learning and teaching.

Key findings

- There is highly effective use of a wide range of whole school data and teachers' professional judgement to monitor and track all aspects of the children's progress and development. This information guides very well the work of the school and ensures appropriate intervention strategies are deployed to meet individual need and maintain high standards of learning and teaching.
- The school has committed to the development of an innovative whole school 'Philosophy Programme' which complements the Northern Ireland Curriculum approach to Personal Development and Mutual Understanding and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. The programme is designed thoughtfully; it is age and stage appropriate and promotes very well the children's confidence, self-esteem and their ability to question and justify their reasoning when answering. The staff and children spoke highly of the programme and its positive impact on learning and teaching.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Conclusion

Holy Cross Boys' 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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