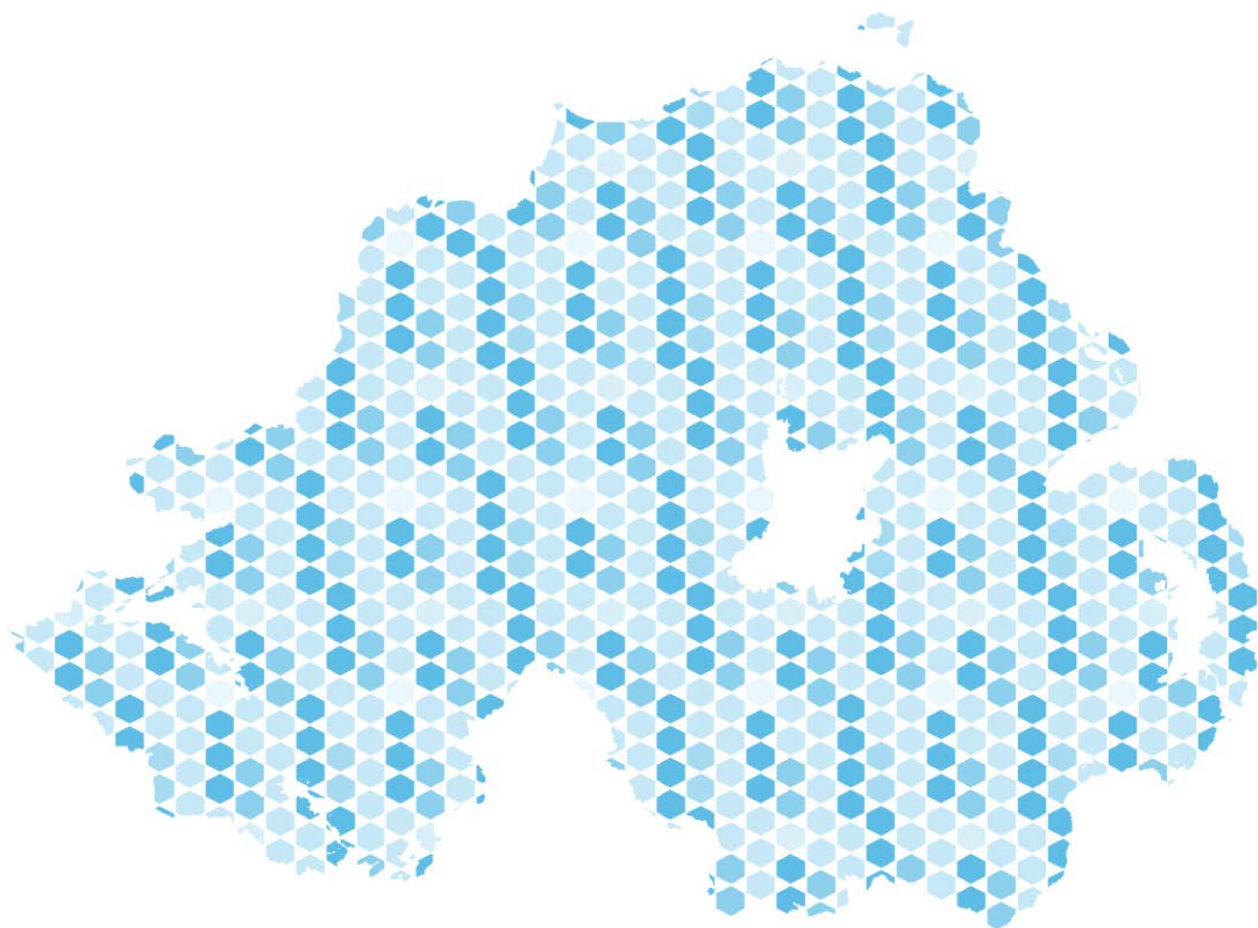


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Lowwood Primary School and
Nursery Unit, Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection in December 2017



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 Lowwood Primary School and Nursery Unit, Belfast (101-6537)

Introduction

The original inspection in November 2011, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Lowwood Primary School and Nursery Unit as outstanding¹. In December 2014, the school took part in the pilot of the sustaining improvement inspection (SII). In the interim, there have been no major changes to the leadership team in the school. A second SII was conducted on 11 and 12 December 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:

- to build the capacity of all staff to lead learning across the school and community, working skilfully and effectively as a team to ensure each child fulfils their potential; and
- to improve further the children's literacy skills, in particular, the quality of their writing.

Key findings

- The leadership, teachers and classroom assistants have a strategic and systematic approach to school improvement. In this inclusive process, the teachers provide skilful observations of learning in one another's classrooms and use in-depth evaluations of the quality of the children's work across the school to set targets for improvement. The staff have developed their teaching skills through a series of well-planned and high quality learning events, which place an important focus on gathering evidence of effective classroom practice and its impact on children's learning and progress. The children's views on their experience of learning in all the classrooms forms a crucial element of the self-evaluation process leading to further improvement.
- The children write across the various genres with accuracy and a degree of flair for a range of audiences and purposes; the standard of writing in the children's books and on display is consistently high. Most of the children achieve very good standards in their writing.

Safeguarding

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

Conclusion

Lowwood 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.

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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