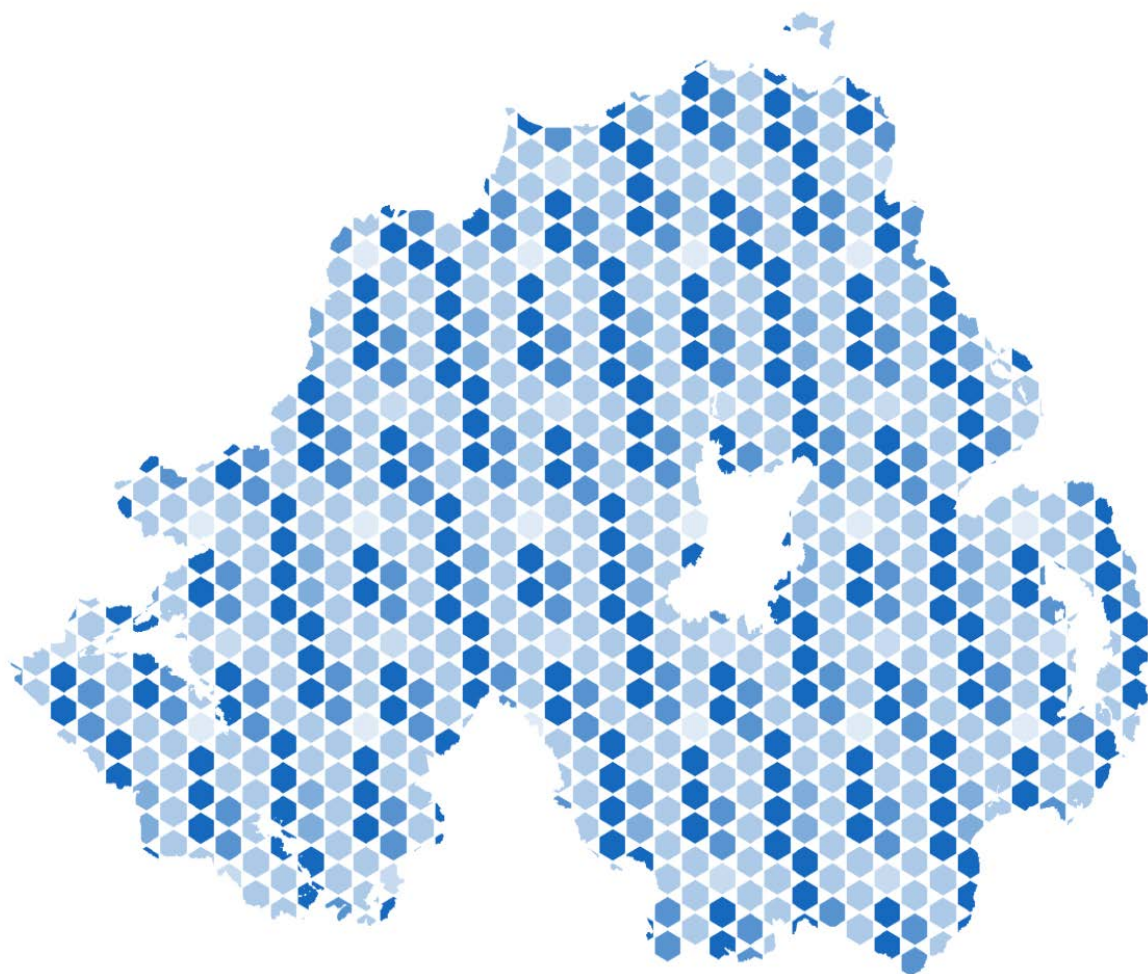


Education and Training Inspectorate

SPECIAL INSPECTION



Roddensvale School, Larne, County Antrim

Special, controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (331-6514)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection in March 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Roddensvale School, Larne, County Antrim (431-6273)

Introduction

The previous sustaining improvement inspection (SII) in April 2016 evaluated Roddensvale School as having capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. In the interim, five new additional permanent teachers have been appointed and a hydrotherapy pool has been added to the provision. Pupil enrolment has increased from 105 to 136; as a result of the increased enrolment and more complex needs of the pupils the accommodation for individual and group work is limited. The school participates in a shared partnership programme with three local post-primary schools. A second SII was conducted on the 28 and 29 March 2019.

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 areas of focus during the SII were to:

- develop further the provision to meet the individual needs of all the pupils; and
- improve the emotional health and wellbeing of the pupils.

Key findings

- The school has reviewed effectively the range of individual baseline assessments and appropriately the school is developing further the tracking systems to enable ongoing analysis of pupil progression. The use of visual schedules, behaviour recording files, pupil profiles and individual education plans provide detailed knowledge of the pupils and a clear understanding of their needs. In order to support the pupils' behavioural and sensory needs, the school has developed links with a wide range of external agencies and has prioritised the development of the pupils' communication skills. There has been a focus on developing further a multi-modal approach to communication and staff and parents have been trained in a range of communication programmes and aids. The school is supporting effectively the pupil needs through the use of circle time, individualised support programmes and a very high level of care and support for pupils with complex medical needs.
- The school development plan has prioritised the improvement of the physical and emotional wellbeing of pupils. A wellbeing committee which includes teachers, classroom assistants and a representative from the board of governors has developed an emotional health and wellbeing policy which guides well the work in this area. A range of complementary therapies are supporting effectively the emotional wellbeing of the pupils and include play, music and hydrotherapy. Importantly, the use of social stories is leading to a decrease in anxiety related behaviours for the pupils.

- Following an audit of pupil lunches, the school is developing the pupils' understanding of healthy eating through links with a local supermarket to taste and tolerate a range of fruit and vegetables. Teachers have also increased the physical exercise opportunities for pupils and there are enhanced extra-curricular opportunities for senior pupils which include knitting and planting flowers. Importantly, parental surveys carried out by the school are highly positive about the school's family support worker who helps parents support their child's wellbeing through improved communication with the school and effective signposting to additional services.

Safeguarding

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

Conclusion

Roddensavle School continues to demonstrate 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.

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