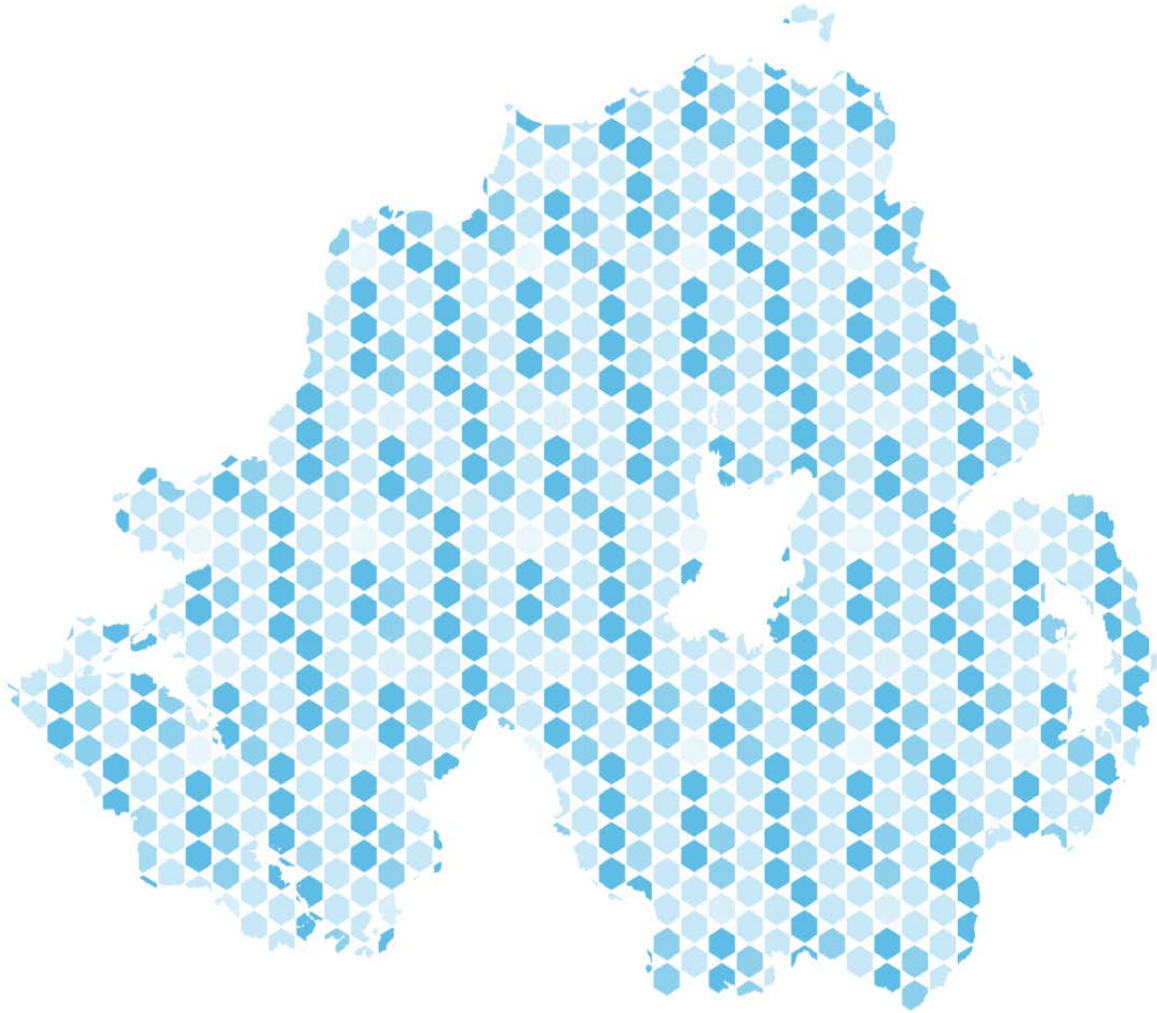


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Sacred Heart Primary School,  
Dundrum, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining  
Improvement Inspection  
in May 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 Sacred Heart Primary School, Dundrum, County Down (403-6133)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in March 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Sacred Heart Primary School as good<sup>1</sup>. In the interim: the board of governors has been reconstituted and two new governors have been appointed; a new permanent teacher was appointed in September 2014; and, an acting principal was appointed in June 2016. After a sharp decline in the enrolment, the number of children enrolled in the school has increased significantly and currently stands at 44 children. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 31 May 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 progress being made in addressing an area for improvement from the original inspection in 2014, that being for senior leaders and co-ordinators to develop robust and systematic processes for monitoring and evaluating the quality of the learning and teaching in their respective areas of responsibility; and
- the further development of numeracy, with a particular focus on mental mathematics.

### **Key findings**

- The school development plan (SDP) has been reviewed and revised by the acting principal, through wide consultation with the school and local community, and is now compliant. The SDP identifies appropriate priorities, which are underpinned by clear action plans, to bring about improvement in the learning experiences of, and the outcomes achieved by, the children. The staff have reviewed and agreed structures for monitoring and evaluating the quality of learning and teaching in literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT) which has resulted in a collegial approach to planning throughout the school.
- Since the last inspection, the staff have given priority to the development of children's mental mathematics skills. A review of the planning for numeracy and focused staff development regarding the teaching of mental mathematics strategies have ensured that the children's mental mathematics skills are well developed. The most able children in key stage 2: enjoy mathematics; are confident and flexible in their thinking; employ a wide range of strategies to solve problems; and, justify their answers using accurate mathematical language.

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<sup>1</sup> A school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

- It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

### **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding now reflect<sup>2</sup> the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

### **Conclusion**

Sacred Heart Primary School continues to demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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

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