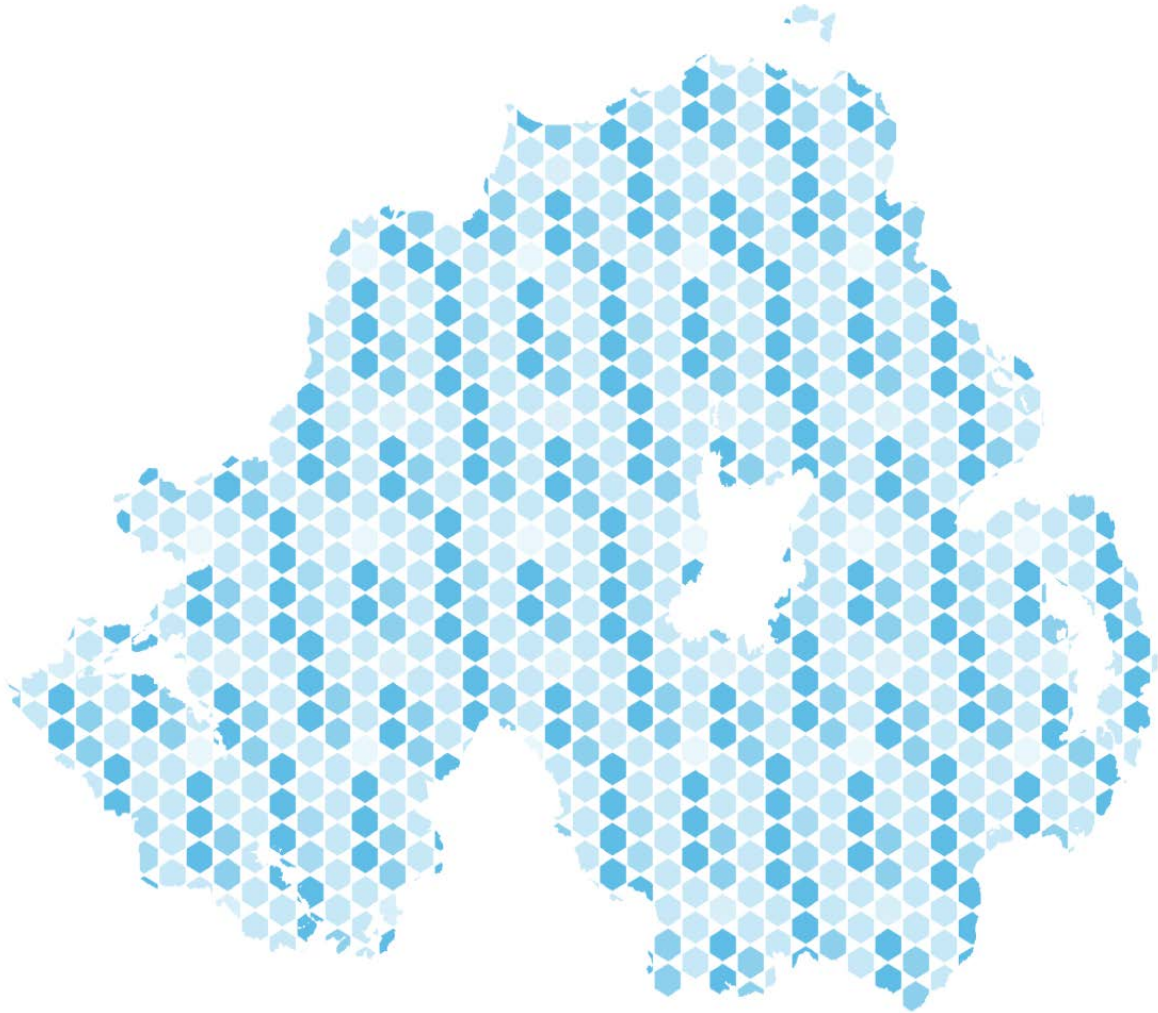


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Malachy's Primary School,
Kilclief, Strangford, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection in May 2017

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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 St Malachy's Primary School, Kilclief, County Down (403-1350)

Introduction

The previous inspection in March 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Malachy's Primary School as very good¹. In the interim, there has been a change in senior leadership with the appointment of a principal in April 2016 and the appointment of two new members of teaching staff, including a numeracy co-ordinator and assistant literacy co-ordinator in September 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 15 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:

- to raise further the quality of the children's learning experience in literacy, in particular, the children's grammar, punctuation and handwriting skills; and
- to raise further the quality of the children's learning experience in numeracy, in particular, the children's ability to solve word problems and their development of logical reasoning.

Key findings

- The recently appointed principal has consulted widely with the whole school community in order to inform the new school development plan which is fully compliant informed by a robust analysis of data and underpinned by well-constructed action plans.
- The staff have implemented a new handwriting style, increased children's awareness of using the correct grammar and punctuation through proof reading and engaging in independent writing, and provided more frequent opportunities for the children to engage in problem-solving activities in numeracy. The learning co-ordinators now need to monitor the impact of this school improvement work on the learning, teaching and outcomes for the children. Currently, the teachers' evaluations do not inform sufficiently the next cycle of planning. In general, differentiation is not clear enough in the medium-term planning for both literacy and numeracy.
- 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.

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.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect² the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Conclusion

St Malachy's Primary School has not demonstrated sufficiently the high level of capacity for sustained improvement; this will be reflected in the future arrangements for inspection of the school.

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

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