

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Mary's Primary School,  
Stewartstown, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining  
Improvement Inspection  
in March 2018



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 Mary's Primary School, Stewartstown, County Tyrone (503-2692)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in February 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Mary's Primary School as very good<sup>1</sup>. Since the last inspection, the enrolment has declined to 92 children. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted in March 2018.

### **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 planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The line of inquiry during the SII was:

- the development of the children's writing in a range of genres and across the curriculum.

### **Key findings**

- A well-conceived action plan, appropriate professional development, and effective monitoring and evaluation strategies have led to a shared understanding of how to progress and improve further the quality and breadth of the children's writing. The systematic and consistent approach to the development of writing is evident in the planning, the lessons observed and the work in the children's books and on display.
- From the foundation stage, the children understand and discuss confidently the key features of a range of writing genres. As the children progress through the school, they show an increasing awareness of audience and purpose. The children learn with and from each other in well-structured guided and shared writing activities, and write purposefully across the curriculum, notably in the World Around Us. The teachers provide focused and concise feedback, which enables the children to reflect on and take responsibility for improving their writing.
- 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 the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. The year 6 children spoke enthusiastically about their learning experiences both within and beyond the classroom. They feel safe and happy in school and know what to do if they have a concern.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **Conclusion**

St Mary's 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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2018

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: [www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk)