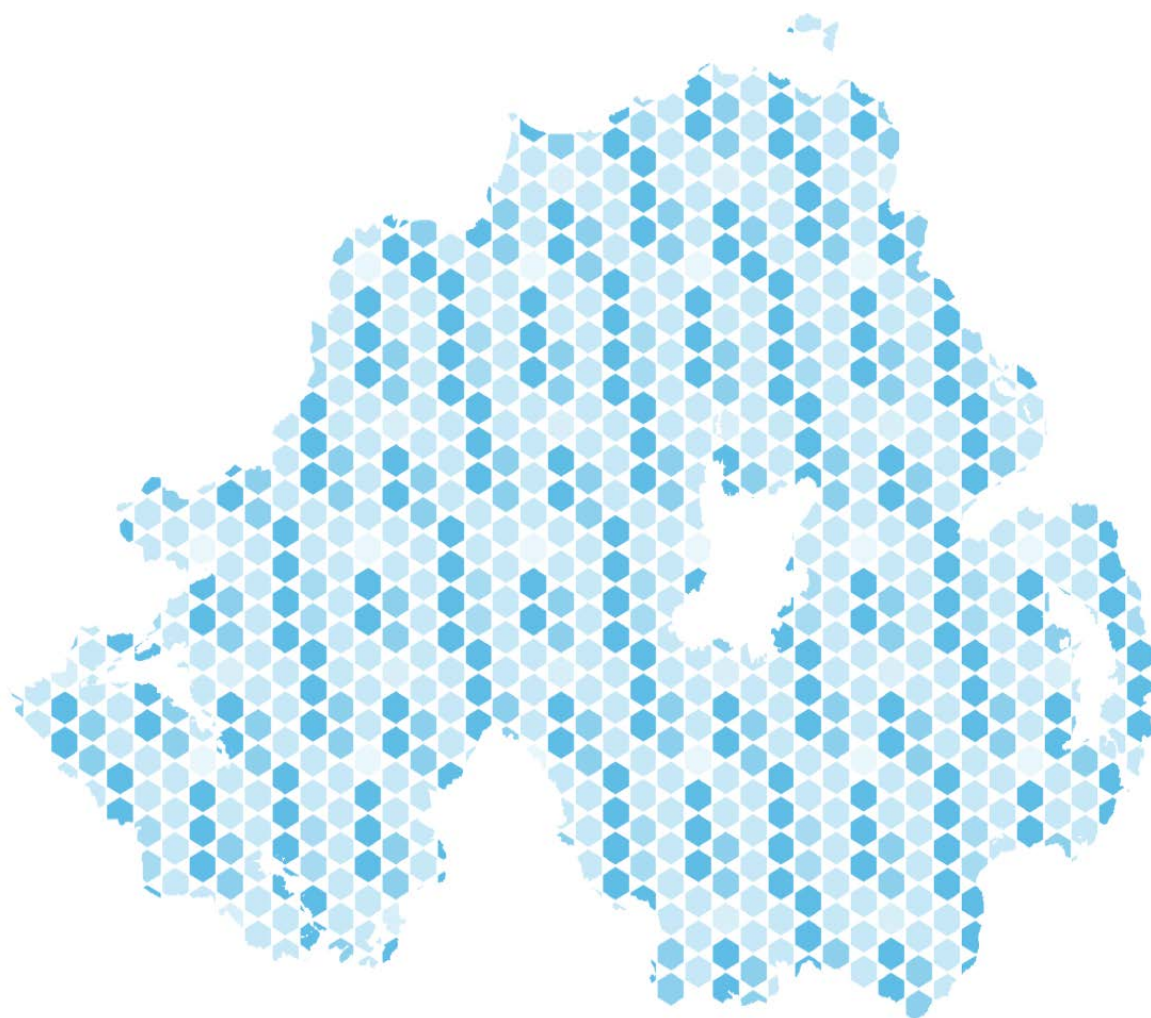


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Matthew's Primary School,
Magheramayo, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in March 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 St Matthew's Primary School, Magheramayo, County Down (503-1653)

Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2013, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Matthew's Primary School as very good¹. In the interim, there has been a change in senior leadership with the appointment of a new principal in September 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 15 March 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 line of inquiry during the SII was:

- high quality learning and teaching, with a focus on active learning and teaching strategies to develop the children's talking, listening and comprehension skills.

Key findings

- A collegial approach to school improvement is a key feature of the work of the school, and tailored staff development ensures that all staff understand well the process of, and are fully committed to, ongoing school improvement.
- The well planned active learning opportunities provided for the children across the school are effective in progressing the quality and range of their skills in talking, listening and comprehension. The latter were evident through the very good quality of work in the children's books and their confident engagement in class discussion. All of the lessons observed during the inspection were effective in progressing the children's learning.
- 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 continue to reflect² the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Conclusion

St Matthew'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.

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.

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

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