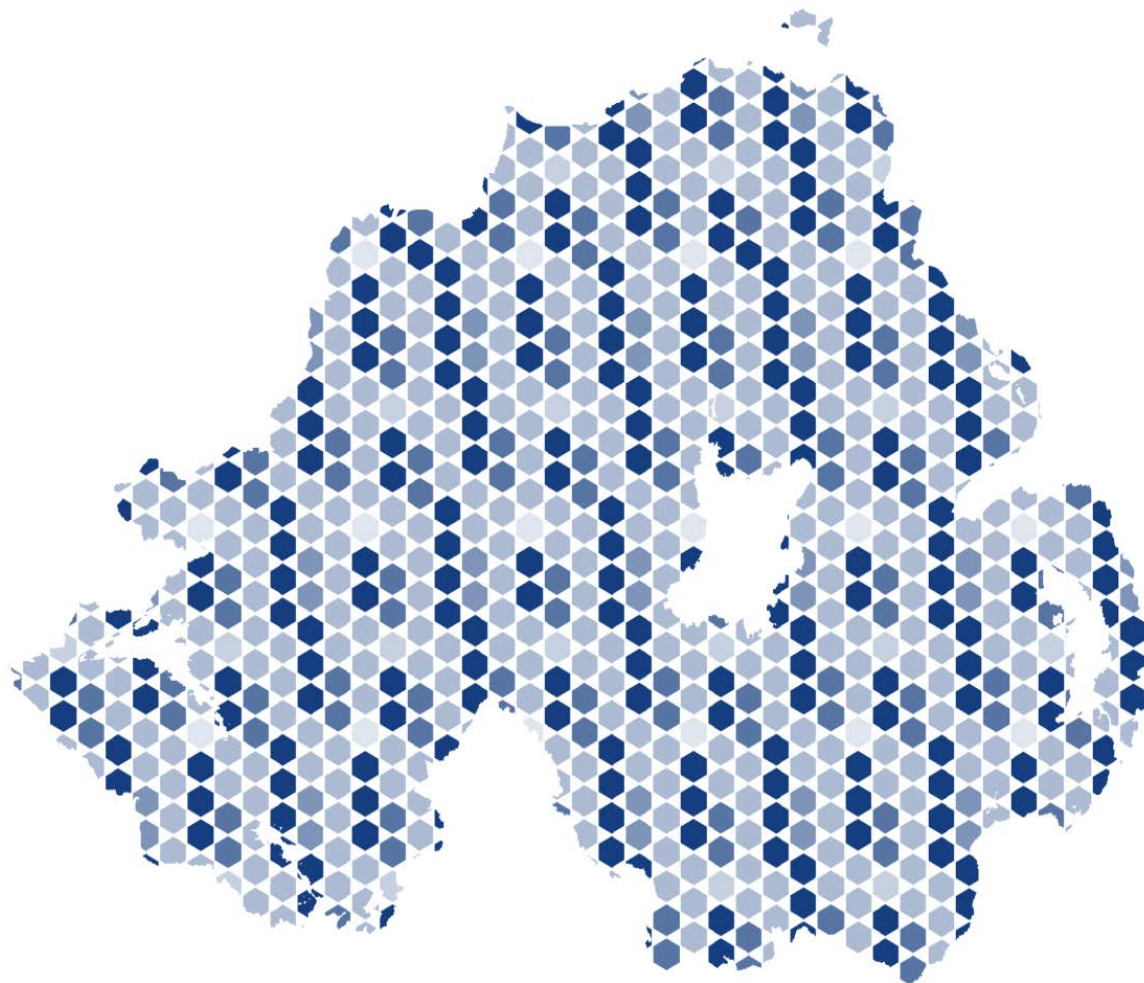


Education and Training Inspectorate

POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Patrick's and St Brigid's College, Claudy, County Londonderry

11-16, non-selective, co-educational maintained college DE ref no (223-0122)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection in January 2019



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 Patrick's and St Brigid's College, Claudy (223-0122)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2016¹ evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's and St Brigid's College as having capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

In the interim period, the allocation of the roles and responsibilities of the senior leadership team (SLT) have been reviewed and are connected clearly to the school development plan priorities. Classes at key stage (KS) 3 are now taught in mixed ability settings. A shared education partnership, involving three other post-primary schools, focusing on mental health and building resilience, is in its second year.

A sustaining improvement (SII) was conducted in February 2019.

Focus of the inspection

The purpose of the SII was to evaluate 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 school's actions to:

- develop further the role of the heads of department, with increased accountability in relation to pupil experience and raising standards for all; and
- improve the provision for special educational needs.

Key findings

- Since the time of the last inspection and to take account of the needs of a small cohort of pupils it had identified, the school, in consultation with key stakeholders, has reviewed and adapted the curriculum further to better meet the needs, abilities and career interests of all the pupils. As a consequence, the pupils continue to achieve high outcomes in public examinations at KS 4, the needs of particular pupils are better met and the school is now meeting the requirements of the entitlement framework.
- As part of the review of roles and responsibilities of the SLT, each member of the SLT has a link role to a number of heads of department. The learning experiences are being monitored, taking account of feedback from pupils, and the feedback is used suitably to inform sharing of best practice and staff development. A sharper use of data by heads of department has resulted in: increased accountability; base-lining more accurately; individualised pupil targets; tracking pupils' progress; providing feedback; and, monitoring the impact of intervention strategies. Importantly, the school is focusing on developing further these processes to include monitoring by pastoral leaders.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/post-primary-inspection-st-patricks-and-st-brigids-college-claudy.pdf>

- Individual education plans are focused explicitly on target setting and review, including collaborative partnerships with pupils, parents and external agencies. Strategies specific to the target are considered and agreed with the pupils and parents. The staff have a greater understanding of the approaches that work for particular educational needs.
- All the lessons observed during the SII were effective or highly effective. The noteworthy characteristics were: the skilful questioning to prompt extended responses; the wide range of assessment for learning strategies; well-planned activities to challenge all and set in meaningful contexts; effective use of tracking data and targets to promote improvement; and, high expectations.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding pupils now reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. In discussion with the inspectors, the pupils reported that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. The child protection training for all staff is up-to-date; the health and safety policy has been reviewed to include clear actions on how the risks will be addressed on individual risk assessments; and whole-school policies have been updated and ratified with a timely and planned cycle for review. The newly reconstituted board of governors is preparing to avail of the training being offered by the education authority.

Conclusion

St Patrick's and St Brigid's College continues to demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the pupils. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2019

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