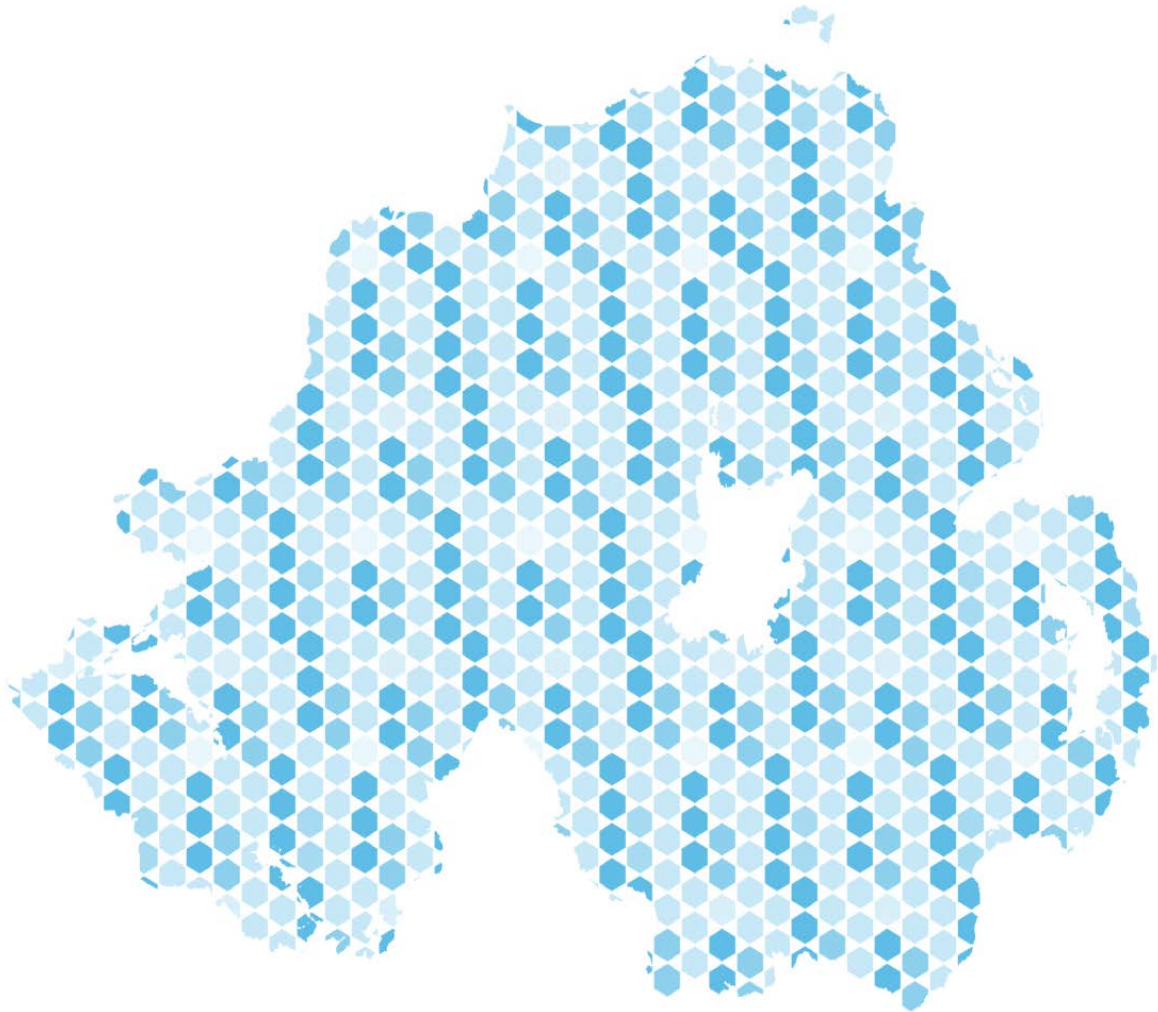


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Patrick's Primary School and
Nursery Unit, Newry, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in April 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 Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Unit, Newry, County Down (503-1158)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2015, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Unit as very good¹. In the interim, a number of new staff have been appointed and there have been changes in leadership roles with the appointment of new vice principal and head of the foundation stage. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 19 and 20 April 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 development planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The line of inquiry during the SII was:

- to develop further and embed a positive reading culture throughout the school; employing a range of strategies to motivate and support children to read, provide appropriate challenge to all readers and foster an enjoyment of reading across the school.

Key findings

- The leadership of the school is highly effective, the senior leadership team provide clear and realistic strategic direction for ongoing school improvement. The school has maintained a culture of self-evaluation, underpinned by the rigorous analysis of qualitative and quantitative data to inform ongoing school improvement work. Consistently high quality learning experiences continue to be provided for the children; all of the literacy lessons observed were effective in progressing the children's learning, with almost three-quarters being very good or outstanding.
- The school develops an enjoyment of reading and has embedded a positive reading culture in the school through a well-planned, progressive reading programme incorporating a range of reading material and methods to suit all abilities, interests and ages. An appropriate range of strategies and initiatives, including for example, the development of phonological awareness, the 'reading buddy' scheme, the computerised reading programme and the 'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) initiative engage and support the children very well in their reading. Across the school, the children respond enthusiastically to the meaningful and extended opportunities provided to develop their reading skills; the standard of reading is very good. By the end of key stage (KS) 2, most of the children are reading at an expected level.

¹ 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.

- The inspectors met with a group of year 7 children, they were very articulate and spoke confidently about their favourite books and authors. The children read with very good expression and understanding. They enjoy the regular opportunities they have to read in school and display high levels of interest in reading for enjoyment. The children were particularly enthusiastic about their involvement in, and the challenges provided through, the computerised reading programme.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education.

Conclusion

St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Unit 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.

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