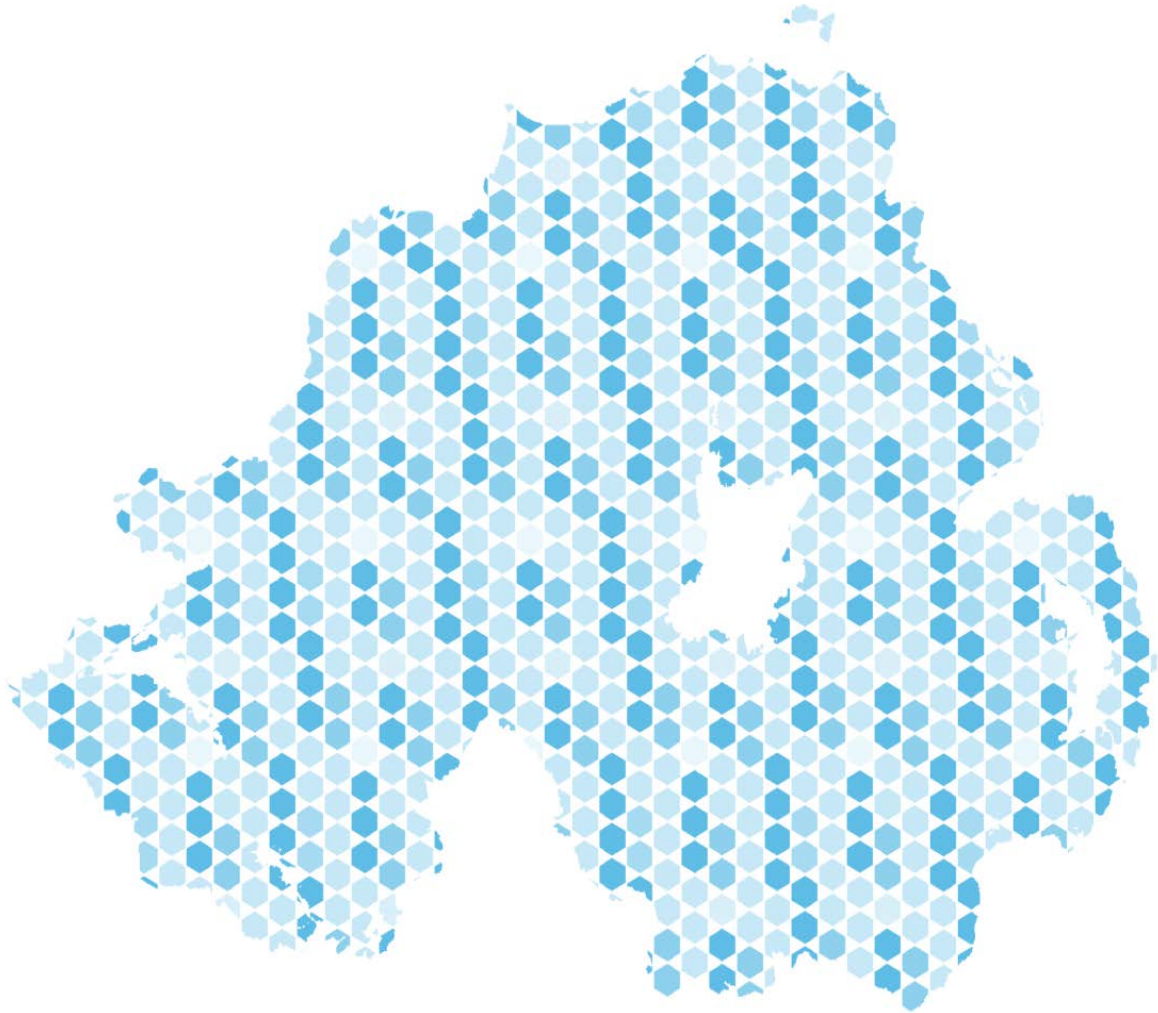


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Academy Primary School and
Nursery Unit, Saintfield,
County Down

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection in March 2017

eti

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 Academy Primary School and Nursery Unit, Saintfield (401-6201)

Introduction

The previous inspection in March 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Academy Primary School and Nursery Unit as very good.¹ A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 30 March 2017. The school is celebrating its fortieth anniversary on its current site.

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 and comprehension skills; and
- to continue to improve the quality and effectiveness of learning, teaching, planning and assessment through increased collegiality and collaboration.

Key findings

- The school's qualitative and quantitative data indicate a reduction in the percentage of children underachieving in literacy that reflects the teachers' sharp focus on the development of the children's grammar and comprehension skills and how linking these areas to the children's reading texts creates meaningful context and relevance. A selection of year 7 children discussed enthusiastically their reading preferences and read fluently with an intonation reflecting their understanding at an inferential level.
- The staff have shown a readiness and collegiality, under the strategic guidance and support of the principal and vice-principal, to develop a shared understanding of effective planning for learning leading to high-quality classroom practice.

Safeguarding

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

Conclusion

Academy 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.

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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