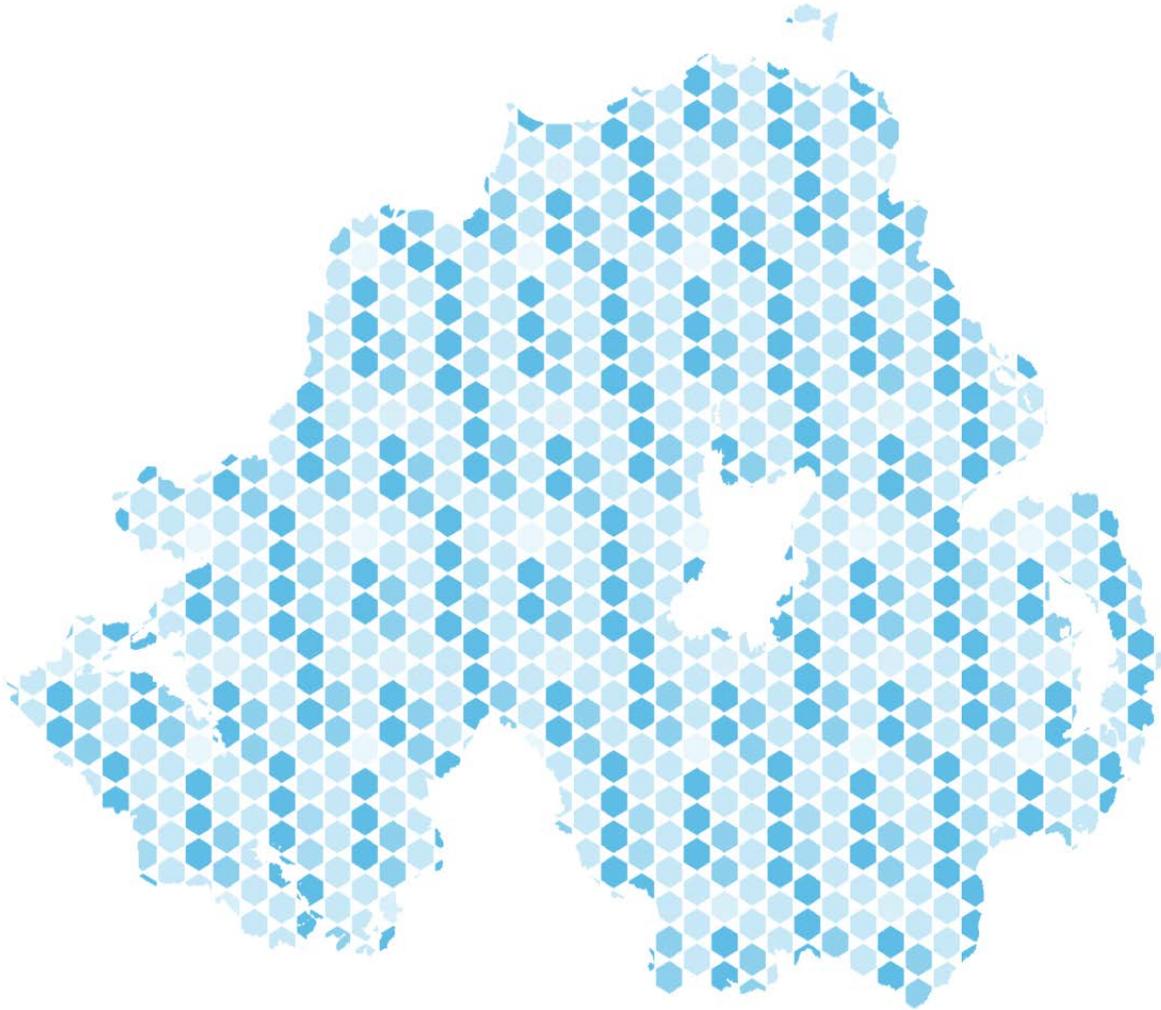


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Dunclug Primary School,
Ballymena, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in June 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 Dunclug Primary School, County Antrim (301-6063)

Introduction

The previous inspection in April 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Dunclug Primary School as good¹. An acting principal has been in post from September 2016 and 2 temporary members of staff were present at the time of the sustaining improvement inspection. Over the past three years, the school's enrolment has reduced from 84 to 67 children. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 5 June 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 lines of inquiry during the SII were to:

- use qualitative and quantitative data to assess and track the children's progress in literacy, particularly in spelling and punctuation skills; and
- ensure that the teachers plan for, implement and evaluate the use of a range of learning strategies in order to meet more effectively the needs of all of the children.

Key findings

- The available performance data is analysed rigorously to identify trends, track the progress of children in literacy and provide appropriate interventions. Planning is reflective of both the quantitative data and teachers' professional judgement.
- The children's learning benefits from the differentiated work in the class and the well-structured withdrawal classes. This work is guided well by comprehensive planning and clearly focused individual education plans. The school identifies at an early stage, and supports well, those children who require additional help with aspects of their learning. Most of the children are achieving in line with or above their expectations in literacy.

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.

¹ A school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding now reflect broadly² the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. Work on the following aspects is underway and needs to be completed:

- updating the child protection policy to reflect the current guidance from the Department of Education ; and
- the completion of training by members of the child protection team.

In discussion with a group of year 6 children, they reported that they are happy in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their well-being.

Conclusion

Dunclug Primary School continues to demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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

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