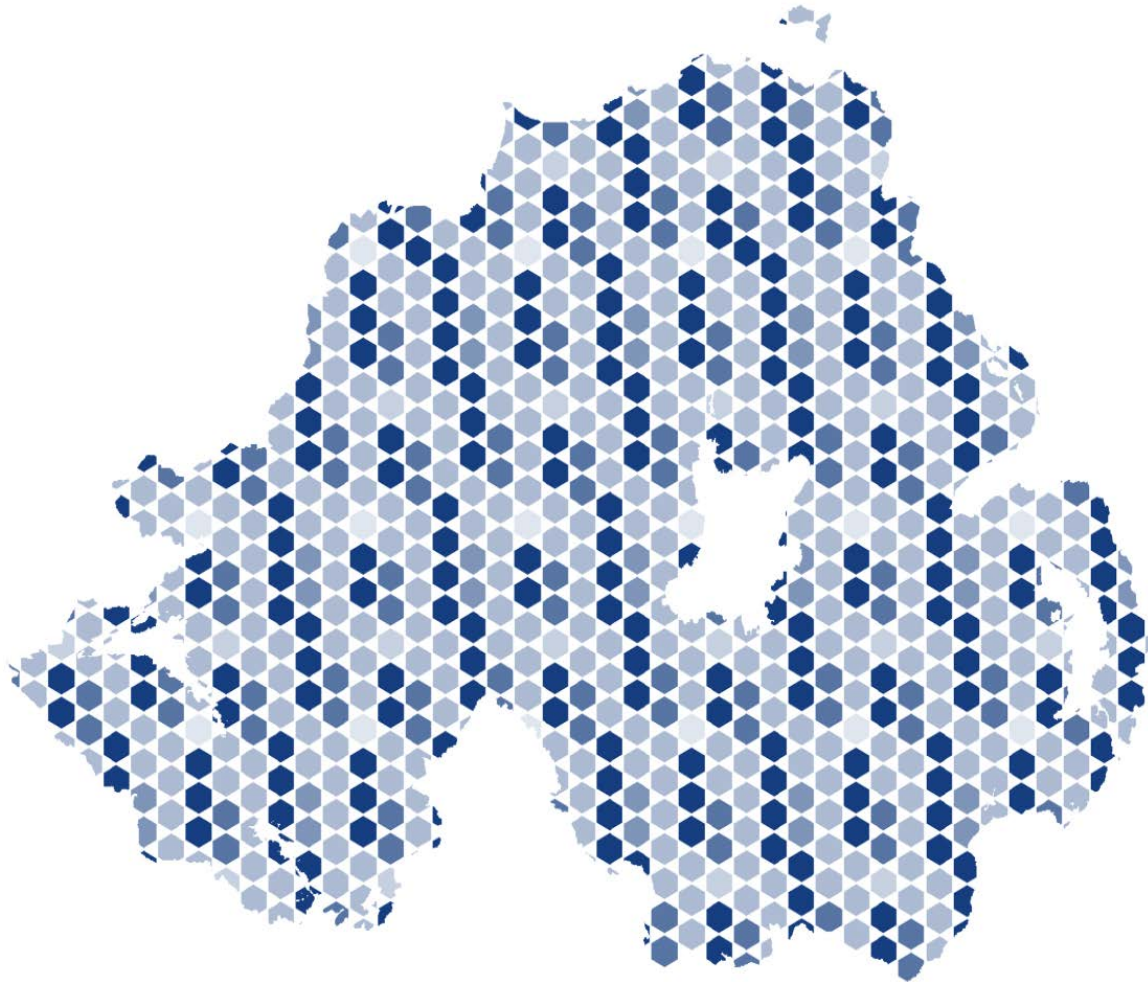


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Abbey Community College,
Newtownabbey, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Baseline Monitoring
Inspection in January 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Baseline Monitoring Inspection of Abbey Community College, Newtownabbey, County Antrim (321-0313)

Introduction

The aim of the Monitoring Inspection is to evaluate the extent to which the leadership and management has set up effective self-evaluation processes to inform the development planning process in order to bring about improvement. The outcome of the inspection will inform future inspection activity.

Abbey Community College was opened in September 2015 as a result of a joint development proposal to cease provision at Newtownabbey Community High School and Monkstown Community School, in conjunction with the creation of a new school.

Focus of the inspection

During the inspection, lines of enquiry were selected from the priorities identified in the school development plan; the school was asked to demonstrate how the actions taken have led to improvement for the pupils. The two key lines of enquiry focused on the school's actions to:

- create a culture and ethos which promotes effectively the care and welfare of the school community; and
- use effectively a range of data to inform the provision for learning and teaching.

Key findings

- In the first key area, the school has established a clear vision, culture and ethos based on the shared core values of ambition, equality, responsibility and respect. Consequently, positive working relationships are evident at all levels which underpin an atmosphere that is conducive to learning. The pupils report that they feel valued as members of their new school community and are supported well in their learning. In order to determine the effectiveness and impact of actions to promote improvement, the whole-school action plans require more rigorous monitoring and evaluation, with sharper targets upon which to measure improvement.
- In the second key area, significant work has been undertaken to develop the capacity of leaders, at all levels, to use effectively the available assessment and pastoral data to inform the quality and effectiveness of the provision. In most of the lessons observed, the teachers use the data to good effect, taking appropriate cognisance of the learning needs of the individual pupils. As a result, the progress of each pupil is monitored and evaluated regularly across the subject areas.
- Due to the creation of the new school, public examination data is only available for this first cohort of pupils; going forward, it will be important for the school to raise the outcomes attained by the pupils.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. There is a need to:

- complete the planned programme, to ratify and implement all relevant policies, in line with current guidance.

Conclusion

At the time of the inspection, for the lines of enquiry selected, the school has demonstrated the capacity to identify and bring about the necessary improvement in the quality of education. This will be reflected in future inspection arrangements.

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