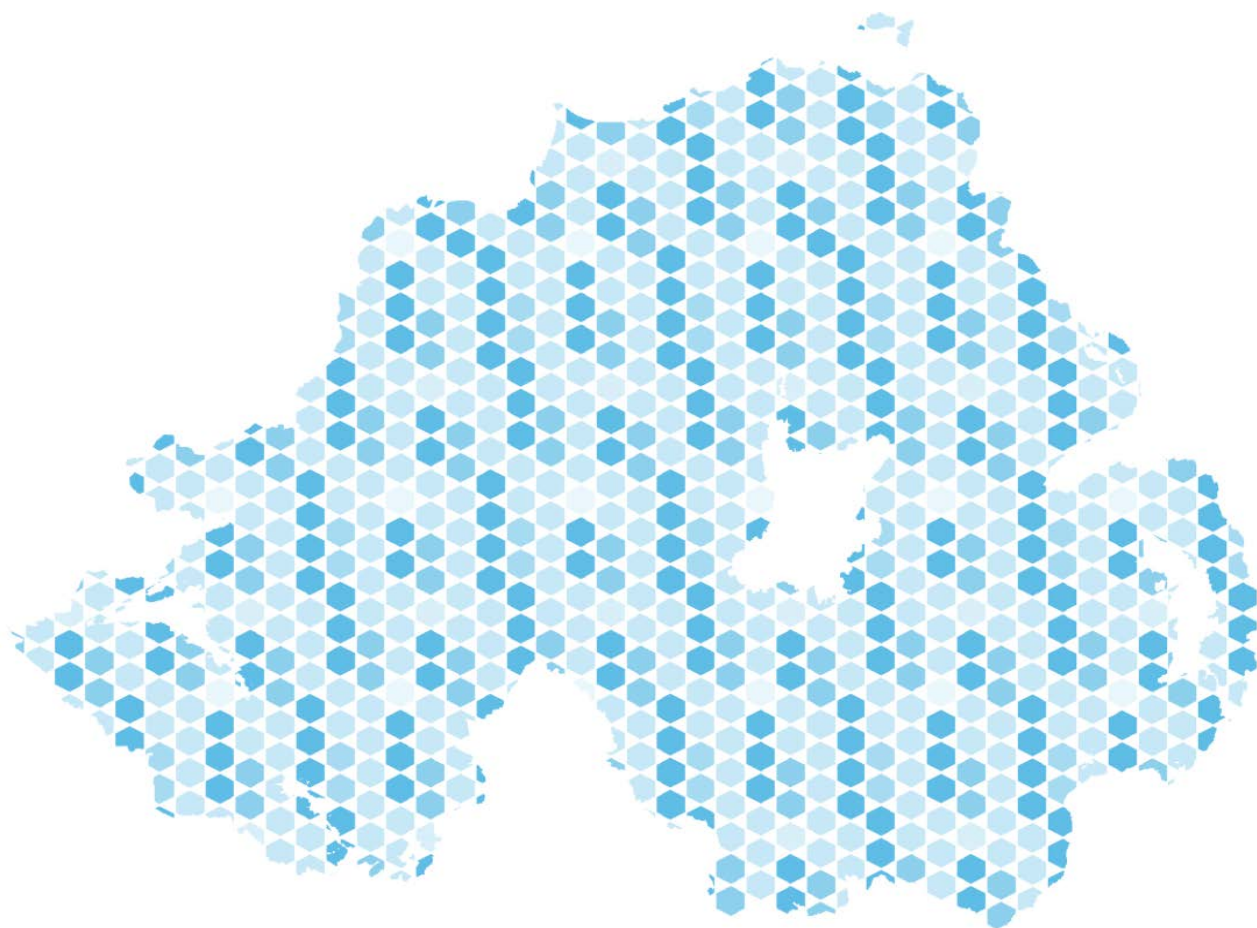


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training N
Inspectorate

Abbots Cross Primary School,
Newtownabbey, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in October 2016

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ABBOTS CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTOWNABBEY, COUNTY ANTRIM, BT37 9QW (301-0862)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out the first follow-up (FUI) inspection in December 2015¹ which concluded that the school needed to address an important area for improvement in the interest of all learners. The area for improvement was:

- for the principal to provide effective leadership.

The ETI carried out a second FUI in October 2016.

In the interval since the first FUI in December 2015, actions and changes which affect the work of the school include:

- the acting-principal has continued in the role of principal;
- two permanent teachers have been appointed;
- an inclusion and diversity officer has been appointed; and
- a Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) has been established.

Key Findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. The senior leadership has developed a more collegial approach to school improvement with a clear focus on raising standards. The curriculum development teams are well established; the co-ordinators are developing very well their leadership roles through the processes of monitoring and evaluating learning and teaching and, tracking children's progress within their areas of responsibility. The staff have used both qualitative and quantitative data to track further improvements in, for example, the children's behaviour, reductions in underachievement in literacy and numeracy and, improvement in oral fluency and enjoyment of reading.

The governors are better informed about the work of the school though more effective communication with the co-ordinators and leadership team. The parents, children and staff are consulted and involved more effectively in the school development planning process. The very effective links and partnerships with parents and the community are being developed further to build a partnership approach and the confidence of parents to support their children's learning.

The teachers' planning, evaluations and marking are focused more consistently on the learning process and on helping the children to improve their work. All of the teaching throughout the follow-up process has been good or better; a majority was very good. The capacity of the staff to understand appropriate progression in learning within the key stages continues to develop well through the review of practice and effective dissemination. The school's monitoring and evaluation procedures have identified some variation in the learning and teaching which they are addressing incrementally through appropriate whole school staff development.

¹ [Follow-up Inspection - Abbots Cross Primary School, Newtownabbey | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

The children's achievements and standards in English and mathematics remain good. The children are developing as independent learners; they solve problems and use their thinking skills through their connected learning tasks. There are improvements in the children's attitudes to writing resulting in a higher quality of independent writing and less dependency on writing frameworks.

Conclusion

Abbots Cross Primary School demonstrates the capacity to bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement in raising further the children's standards in literacy and numeracy.

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