

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Comber Primary School and
Nursery Unit, County Down

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in November 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF COMBER PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT, COMBER, COUNTY DOWN, BT23 5BX (401-1588)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Comber Primary School and Nursery Unit¹ in June 2016 which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were to:

- identify strategically and implement concise actions to promote improvement, monitor regularly and evaluate with rigour the measures to success and raise further the standards the children attain; and
- develop further the teachers' planning to provide consistent high quality learning across the school and to ensure the needs of all of the children are met fully.

The school's action plans were of a good quality and the school's development plan was adjusted in light of inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim inspection visit in February 2017 and a follow-up inspection in November 2017.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- the appointment of a new (acting) vice-principal;
- the appointment of a special educational needs co-ordinator;
- the appointment of a new chair of governors;
- the establishment of link governors for curricular areas;
- the pastoral policies including child protection and positive behaviour have been reviewed and updated;
- the formation of numeracy and literacy teams;
- the creation of an achievements and standards sub-committee of the board of governors;
- an extensive review of long- and medium- planning in literacy and numeracy; and
- training and support provided by the Education Authority (EA).

Key findings

- The outcomes for the learners remain good. In the lessons observed, the children are using the language of problem solving consistently and applying the mathematical strategies appropriately in real life contexts.

¹[Primary Inspection - Comber Primary School and Nursery Unit, County Down | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

- The quality of the provision is now good. During the follow-up inspection, all of the lessons observed were good and very good; the lessons were set in meaningful contexts and activities were carefully differentiated to provide challenge for the more able and support for those with additional learning needs. The comprehensive review of long- and medium- term planning has resulted in a more consistent approach to planning throughout the school, with improved differentiation and more effective tracking of all of the children's needs and progress. The planning for play-based learning provides the children with more creative and investigative play experiences. The individual education plans identify appropriate short- and long- term targets for the children along with clear teaching strategies. Most of the teachers are increasingly confident in reflecting on their practice and evaluating the planning; this needs to be applied more consistently across the school.
- The quality and effectiveness of leadership and management, and action to promote improvement are now good. The re-structured leadership team has overseen a strategic and clearly communicated improvement process with the full support of the staff. The literacy and numeracy co-ordinators together with their respective teams implement a more rigorous process of monitoring and evaluating the quality of the children's work using both qualitative and quantitative data which has improved the progression in learning. The board of governors, the standards and achievement sub-committee and the link governors have a clearer understanding of the outcomes the children attain in English and mathematics and exercise effectively their challenge function. The school has been very well supported by the Education Authority.

Overall effectiveness

Comber Primary School and Nursery Unit demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement in building progressively the capacity of the middle leaders to evaluate further the quality of the learning experiences.

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