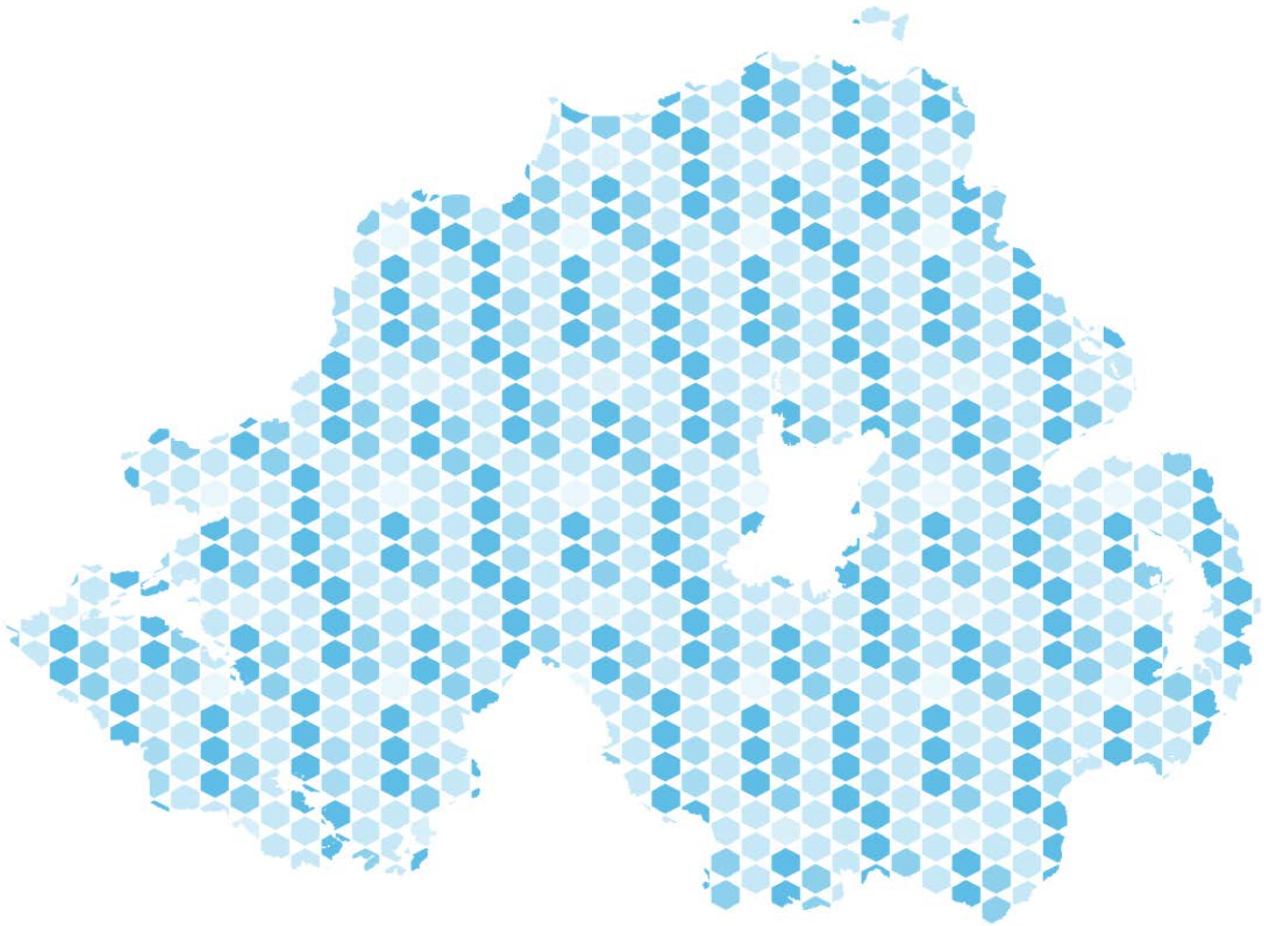


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Dundela Infants' School,
Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in March 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF DUNDELA INFANTS' SCHOOL, BELFAST, COUNTY ANTRIM, BT4 3BL (101-6242)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Dundela Infants' School and Nursery Unit in November 2016¹, which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners². The areas for improvement were to:

- develop a more strategic and systematic approach to whole-school self-evaluation and improvement by leadership and management at all levels;
- improve the consistency in the learning and teaching; and
- improve the quality of the provision in the nursery unit.

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

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in September 2017 and a follow-up inspection in March 2018.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the actions or changes which affect the work of the school include:

- a new nursery co-ordinator and a part-time learning support teacher have been appointed;
- the co-ordinators' roles and responsibilities have been reviewed; and
- the school has received very good support from the Education Authority (EA).

Key findings

- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement are now good. The clear strategic leadership, supported by the effective governors, has improved the quality of learning and teaching within the school. There is now a systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating key curricular areas. Building staff capacity and the work undertaken to enhance the co-ordinator roles have resulted in a culture of self-reflection and a collegial approach to self-evaluation. The staff use quantitative and qualitative data, lesson observations and reviews of the children's work more effectively to monitor and evaluate the quality of the children's learning outcomes and identify future actions.
- During the follow-up process, almost all of the lessons evaluated were good or better. The staff have a greater understanding of thinking skills and personal capabilities and plan consistently across year groups and through curricular areas to develop these skills in the children. The staff employ a range of questioning skills well within class and, as a result, the children are now more able to express their own ideas. The children have an increasing range of opportunities to make independent decisions and choices and express their own opinions.

¹ https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/primary-inspection-dundela-infants-school-and-nursery-unit-belfast-101-6242_0.pdf

² [Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement | Department of Education](#)

- The quality of provision in the nursery unit is now good. There are good to very good opportunities for learning across almost all areas of the pre-school curriculum. Particular strengths are: the enhanced opportunities for creativity where children are confident to express their own creative ideas; hold purposeful conversations with the staff; and, show greater interest and curiosity in their environment.

Overall effectiveness

Dundela Infants' School 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:

- embedding further the self-evaluation processes leading to improvement; and
- ensuring children are provided with high quality learning opportunities across all areas of the pre-school curriculum within both indoor and outdoor environments.

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