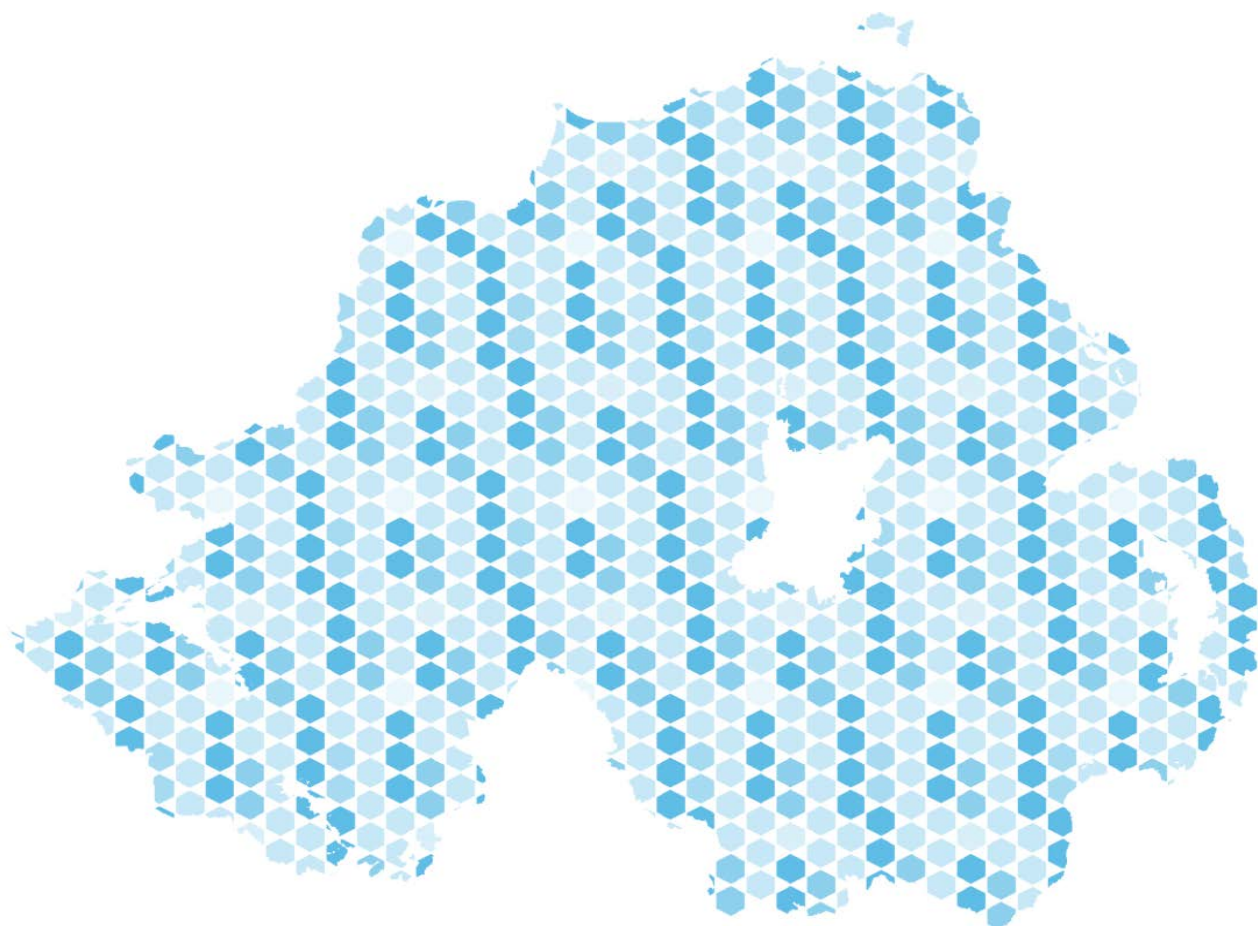


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ebrington Controlled Primary
School Nursery Unit, Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in June 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF EBRINGTON CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY UNIT, LONDONDERRY, BT47 6LR (201-0382)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Ebrington Controlled Primary School and Nursery Unit in April 2016¹, which concluded that the nursery unit needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the children.

The key areas identified were:

- to review the method of planning to outline more clearly the learning inherent in the activities in order to guide the staff more effectively in their work with the children and ensure that all available time is used to promote the children's language and learning;
- to review and refine the methods used to observe and track the children to allow the staff more time to engage with them; and
- for the senior management of the school to use more effectively the action planning process to monitor and evaluate more rigorously the quality of the children's learning experiences and achievements.

The school's action plans were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI.

The ETI carried an interim follow-up visit in December 2016 and a follow-up inspection (FUI) in June 2017.

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

- the school and unit have relocated to new accommodation on a larger site in the area;
- a 'head of nursery unit' was appointed;
- the staff have carried out visits to other nursery settings and attended appropriate training sessions to help inform practice;
- more opportunities have been created to increase liaison and involvement between the senior management and the nursery unit to monitor and evaluate the quality of the children's learning experiences and achievements; and
- the Education Authority has provided ongoing support, advice and guidance to the school which the school reports was helpful in bringing about the necessary improvements.

Key Findings

The mid-year transition to the new nursery unit was very well organised and caused minimal disruption for the children; as a result, they are well settled and established in their new environment. The children are well behaved and mannerly, engage in lengthy periods of purposeful and productive play and produce quality work of a standard expected for the time of year.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/primary-inspection-ebrington-primary-school-and-nursery-unit-londonderry>

The method of planning is detailed and comprehensive and guides the staff effectively in their work with the children. The regular evaluations take account of the children's responses and are used to inform future learning and teaching. The staff use their time appropriately to engage in high quality interaction with the children; they join in their play, refer to previous learning and experiences and ask open ended questions that build on the children's responses to develop further their language and learning. The methods of record keeping and assessment have been reviewed; further refinement is required to reduce the more formal aspects of these methods.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership and management and action to promote improvement are now good. Appropriate measures are in place to monitor and evaluate the quality of the children's learning experiences and achievements and to ensure high standards are maintained. The appointment of a 'head of nursery unit' helps to ensure all parties are well informed and have a shared vision for the work and future development of the nursery unit. The current actions plans identify several appropriate areas for development including the creative development of the outdoor play area.

Overall Effectiveness

Ebrington Primary School nursery unit demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the children. The ETI will monitor how the nursery unit sustains improvement in relation to continuing to improve the methods of assessment and the development of the outdoor play area.

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