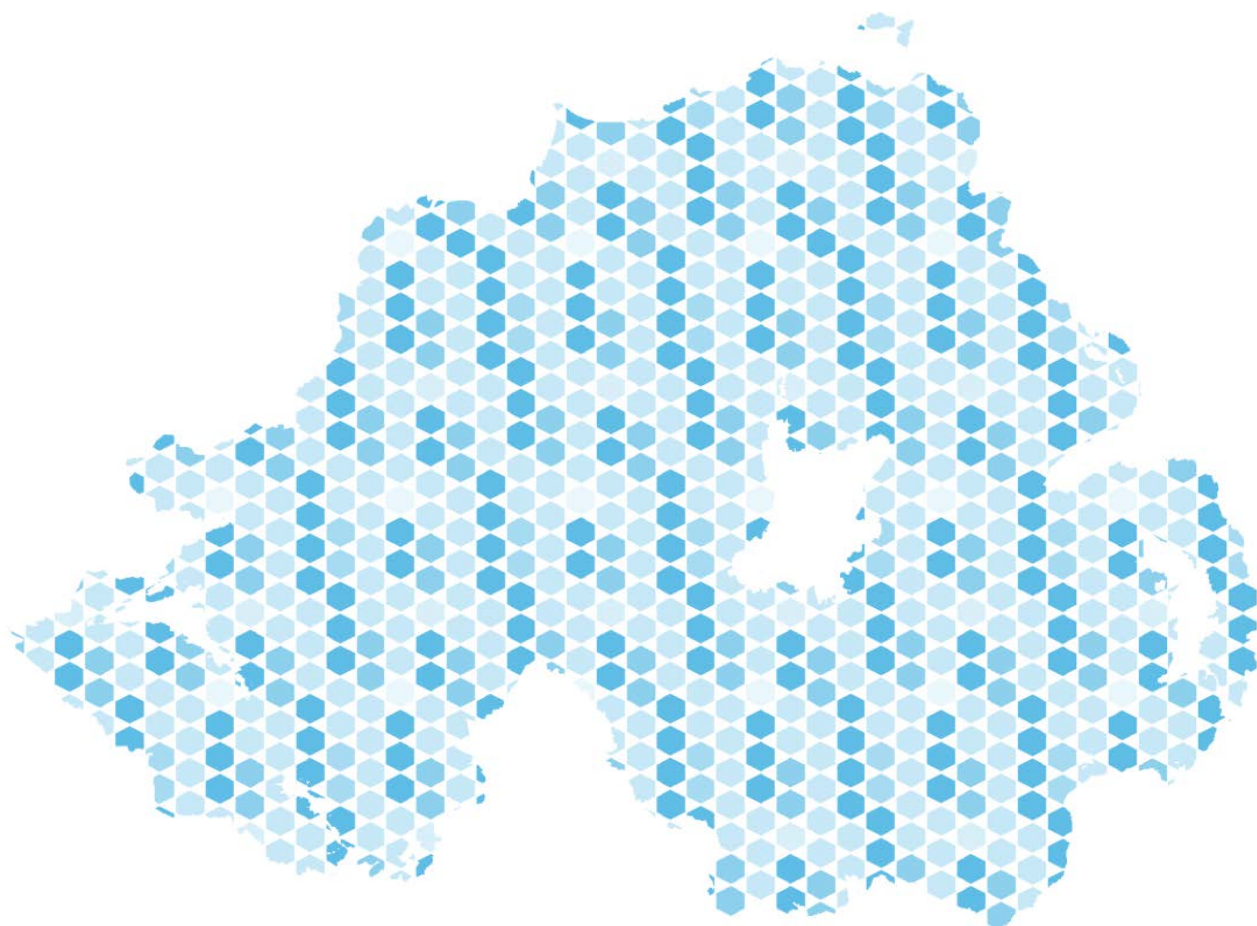


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Gaelscoil an Lonnáin, Belfast

Irish-medium, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection  
in March 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GAELSCOIL AN LONNÁIN, BELFAST, BT12 4PD (104-6672)**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Gaelscoil an Lonnáin in June 2015<sup>1</sup>, which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement<sup>2</sup> in the interest of all the learners. The areas for improvement included the need to:

- develop further play-based learning in the foundation stage;
- review whole-school planning to ensure a more rigorous and consistent approach to learning and teaching in all aspects of literacy; and
- develop a more robust process for monitoring and evaluating the children's learning experiences and attainments throughout the school in order to ensure progression and raise standards.

The school's action plans 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 interim follow-up visits in January and October 2016.

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

- the staff have received effective support from the Education Authority (Irish-medium and English-medium) in various aspects of literacy, leadership and management and provision in the early years;
- the staff have availed of capacity building opportunities in aspects of numeracy, literacy and play-based learning;
- all co-ordinators have joined Irish-medium clusters specific to their respective roles of responsibility;
- the staff have visited other schools to observe effective practice in play-based learning; and
- a whole-school approach to medium-term planning for literacy has been introduced and a topic-based approach to planning across genres in literacy has been developed.

### **Key findings**

- The outcomes for learners in literacy are now good. The majority of the children have a good understanding of both Irish and English and communicate with increasing confidence with one another and with adults as they progress through the key stages. The children write for a greater range of purposes and audiences; they are developing an understanding of the process of writing as they avail of opportunities to plan and edit their work. There remains a need to improve further the quality of the presentation of work in the children's books throughout the school.

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<sup>1</sup> [Primary Inspection - Gaelscoil an Lonnain, Belfast | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

<sup>2</sup> Prior to September 2015, the term 'satisfactory' was used in inspection reports for overall conclusions where there were important areas for improvement.

- The quality of provision remains an important area for improvement. The planning requires further review to ensure that: the quality of learning and teaching is consistently effective; the needs of all children are met; there is sufficient progression in the learning; and, evaluations are used more effectively to inform future planning. It is important that the planned learning experiences also take cognisance of the development of children's thinking skills and personal capabilities.
- The effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement remains an important area for improvement. The senior leadership and staff are committed to the improvement process and are supported well by their board of governors. It is now timely to embed the recently established practice of monitoring and evaluating in order to impact further on the quality and consistency of the learning experiences across the school and continue to raise standards.
- It continues to be important that the employing authority, governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

### **Overall effectiveness**

Gaelscoil an Lonnáin needs to address important areas for improvement. The follow-up inspection has identified the following areas for improvement:

- to develop further the provision for play-based learning to provide higher quality learning experiences for the children and to ensure appropriate progression;
- to raise further the outcomes for children in literacy; and
- to embed the recently established practice of monitoring and evaluating in order to impact further on the quality and consistency of the learning experiences across the school and continue to raise standards.

The ETI will conduct a further follow-up inspection in 12 to 18 months.

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