

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Hollywood Nursery School, Hollywood,
County Down

DE Ref No 411-0030

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in June 2024



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Second follow-up to the inspection of Hollywood Nursery School, Hollywood, BT18 9BU (411-0030)

Introduction

Hollywood Nursery School is located in the centre of the town. There are 78 children enrolled at the nursery school, with its provision comprising two part-time morning sessions and one part-time afternoon session.

This follow-up inspection was carried out in June 2024 and provided the nursery school with the opportunity to demonstrate its progress in addressing the areas for action identified at the time of the last follow-up inspection in March 2023. In the interim, two new members of staff have been appointed.

Views of parents and staff

The ETI issued online confidential questionnaires to parents and staff in advance of the follow-up inspection.

Fifteen percent of parents (12) responded to the online questionnaire and were highly positive in their responses. They indicated that their child is happy in the nursery school and that they are content with the learning opportunities the staff provide. Two-thirds of the parents who responded also provided written comments which were mainly positive; they praised the supportive and approachable staff and recognised the progress their child has made over the past year.

Almost all of the staff responded to the online questionnaire, the results of which were wholly positive. All staff reported that their views and ideas are sought, valued and acted upon, and almost all have been able to avail of and benefit from recent professional learning opportunities. A small number of written comments highlighted that the staff work collegially to support the children.

The findings from the questionnaires were shared with the principal and governors.

Key actions

During this period, the key actions which affect the work of the nursery school are set out below.

- The staff have accessed support from the Education Authority to develop their understanding of the pre-school curriculum, planning, assessment and self-evaluation processes.
- The planning has been reviewed to ensure learning intentions are clear, specific and reflect the needs and interest of the child.

- The outdoor play areas and both classrooms have been reconfigured to provide greater opportunities for the children to explore and participate in investigative play across all areas of the pre-school curriculum.

Key findings

All of the children engage enthusiastically in focused play for sustained periods of time. They are confident in trying new experiences and enjoy working collaboratively with their peers. The children make independent play choices, with many building on their individual interests.

The children participate in the making of collaborative and individual artwork, building on their prior learning. They produce detailed, recognisable creative pieces which are displayed and celebrated within the nursery school. The children participate readily in imaginative play and enjoy the opportunities for role-play in the bakery and farm shop. The staff facilitate well the children's learning in creative and imaginative play.

The children understand early mathematical concepts and count accurately as a natural part of their active play. They communicate easily with peers, adults and visitors using a wide range of vocabulary. They also show a keen interest in reading and early mark-making, with a small number of the children being able to write their own names.

The staff plan a range of learning opportunities across all areas of the pre-school curriculum which build on the children's interests and prior learning. Clear learning intentions are included in the planning, alongside the identification of key language which the adults use and model well in their interactions with the children during their topic work.

The staff work collaboratively to evaluate the planning, undertake regular observations and consider the impact of the learning opportunities on the children's development. A specific focus on the development of the children's investigative and exploratory skills has impacted positively on their play and enhanced their natural curiosity and interest in their world.

Through weekly e-mail communication, parents are kept informed of the planned learning for their child. They receive regular updates about their child's progress along with ideas on how to support their child's learning at home. Staff seek regularly feedback from the parents, which has contributed to the development planning process and supported the identification of key priorities for development.

All of the staff have a greater understanding of self-evaluation, which has led to improvements in the quality of the indoor and outdoor learning experiences provided for the children. The staff work collegially on the self-evaluation process, detailing progress from baseline positions and identifying areas for further development.

Area for consideration:

- The staff have identified the need to improve further the outdoor learning areas to enhance the children's learning experiences.

Child Protection

At the time of the follow-up inspection, the evidence provided by the nursery demonstrates that the arrangements for child protection align to the current statutory guidance.

Going Forward

The staff and governors have addressed well the areas for action identified at the time of the last inspection. The staff work collaboratively to provide a child-focused programme of learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum which is supporting the development of the children's creative, investigative and exploratory skills.


ETI will, through its normal processes, continue to monitor the progress of Holywood Nursery School in addressing the area for consideration as laid out in this report.

No further follow-up inspection is required.

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