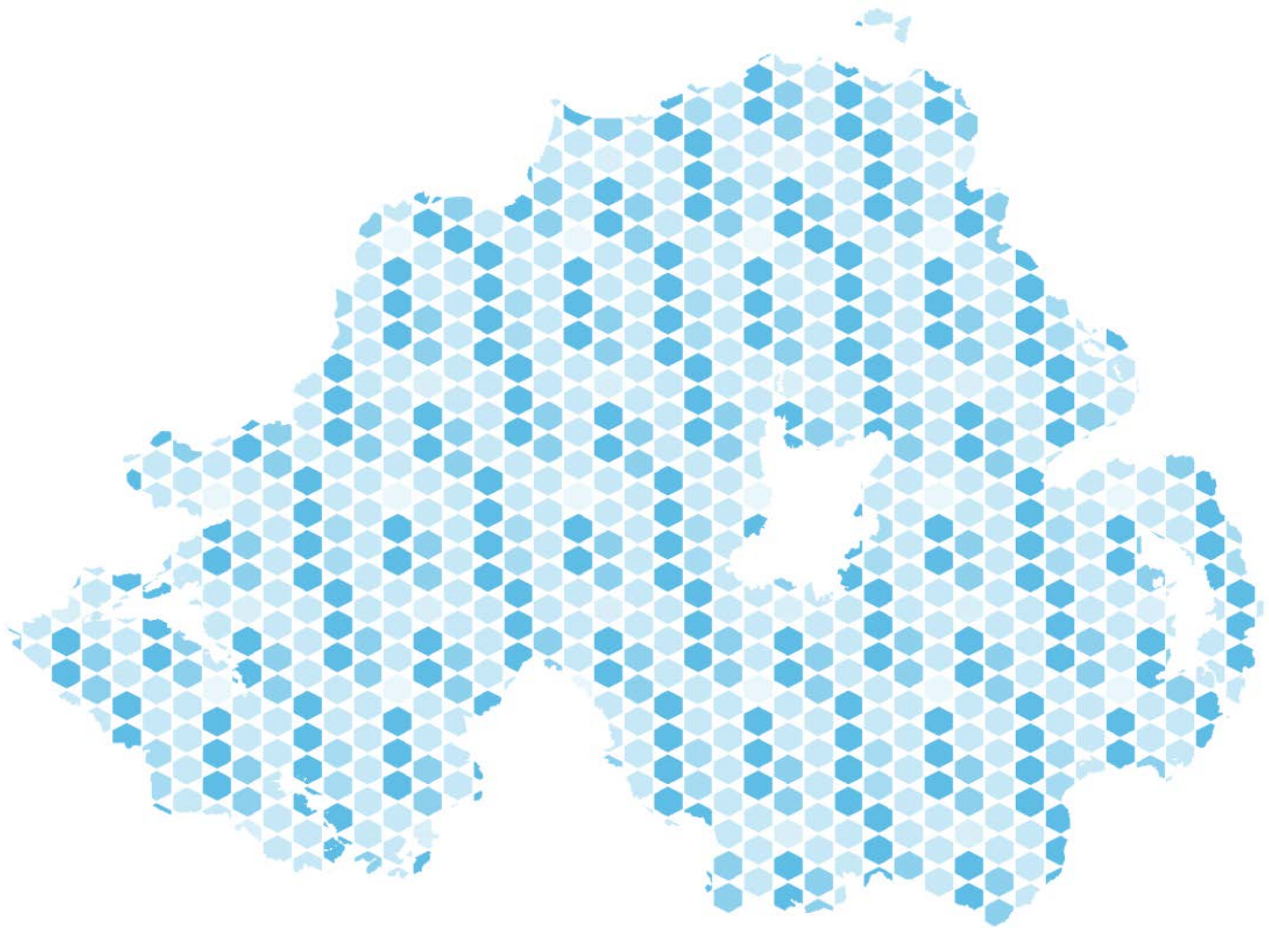


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Magheralough Primary School,  
Trillick, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection  
in January 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MAGHERALOUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, TRILLICK, COUNTY TYRONE BT78 3SZ (203-2473)**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Magheralough Primary School in April 2015<sup>1</sup> which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners<sup>2</sup>.

The areas for improvement were to:

- meet more effectively the wide range of needs within the composite classes to improve the standards achieved by the children; and
- develop a more strategic approach to school development planning to effect improvements in the learning and teaching.

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

The ETI carried out interim follow-up inspection visits in November 2015 and May 2016 and a follow-up inspection in January 2017. Since the original inspection, there have been several changes in the teaching staff; at the time of the second interim visit and the follow-up inspection there was a temporary teacher in key stage (KS) 2 on both occasions. The school enrolment has decreased since the original inspection from 31 children to 23 children at the time of the follow-up inspection. The children are taught in two composite classes.

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

- the establishment of a sub-committee of the board of governors to oversee the improvement process;
- the implementation of a wide range of curricular and pastoral policies and procedures, including risk assessment;
- the purchase of new reading resources;
- the very good support of the Education Authority (EA) and the Catholic Council of Maintained Schools (CCMS); and
- the redevelopment of the outdoor learning environment, for example, the wildflower garden, the children's den and the new physical play track.

### **Key findings**

- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement is now good. There is a collegial approach to the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of learning and teaching which has impacted positively on the standards achieved by the children in literacy. The senior leadership is supported well by the board of governors who have been actively involved in the

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<sup>1</sup> [Primary Inspection - Magheralough Primary School, Trillick, Co Tyrone | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

<sup>2</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as satisfactory has been reported as the school having important areas for improvement.

improvement process. There are improved curricular links with parents. The new three-year school development plan outlines clearly the key areas for improvement and is informed by effective analysis of performance data and wide consultation with key stakeholders. It will be important that the self-evaluation process is embedded further to ensure sustained improvement in key identified areas.

- The quality of learning and teaching is now good. There is a personalised approach to learning and teaching; the teachers know the children well and provide effective individual support to meet their learning needs. A comprehensive review of long- and medium-term planning has established a progressive and consistent approach to the teaching of literacy. Lessons are now more creative and stimulating, and enable the children to make connections across the curriculum. The regular opportunities for the children to engage in self- and peer-assessment, coupled with regular and effective teachers' marking for improvement, have resulted in the children being aware of their learning targets.
- The outcomes for learners in literacy are now very good. An analysis of the school's data demonstrates that almost all of the children are achieving in line with or above expectation in literacy and numeracy. The children demonstrate high levels of engagement and increasing use of vocabulary. Their talking and listening skills develop well through regular well-conceived opportunities to talk with partners. The children write across a range of genre with increasing creativity and accuracy; the standard of handwriting and presentation has improved significantly. During the inspection, a small group of KS 2 children read with fluency and are familiar with a range of favourite authors; in discussion, they justify their opinions and demonstrate empathy with the main characters. The children are competent and confident in using information and communication technology (ICT) to complete on-line activities and create multi-media presentations.
- 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's enrolment and budget in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

## **Conclusion**

Magheralough Primary 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 process leading to improvement in the identified areas for development.

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