

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Naíscoil an Chreagáin, Silverbridge,
County Armagh

Irish-medium Voluntary Playgroup, DE Ref No. 5AB-0395

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in November 2022



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
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Follow-up to the inspection of Naíscoil an Chreagáin, Silverbridge, BT35 9PQ (5AB-0395)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection of Naíscoil an Chreagáin in June 2019¹, which concluded that the naíscoil needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners, namely to:

- develop and embed the processes for, and staff understanding of, self-evaluation to promote further improvements in the quality of provision;
- develop further the planning for the start of the session in the halla mór and outdoor play area and ensure suitable progression in the children’s learning; and
- improve the consistency of adult engagement and interactions to promote both the children’s Irish and their overall learning across the pre-school curriculum.

The naíscoil’s action plans were adjusted in response to the feedback given by the ETI. The naíscoil’s development plan was also adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out a monitoring visit in November 2021 and a second follow-up inspection in November 2022.

In the interval since the last follow-up inspection, the naíscoil has received external support from an early years specialist (EYS) from Altram in relation to planning, observations and self-evaluation.

Over the same period, the key actions and changes which have affected the work of the naíscoil include:

- a decrease of almost 40% in the number of children enrolled in the naíscoil;
- a number of changes to the management committee; and
- staff completing ETI’s *‘Empowering Improvement – Stepping forward Together Programme’*.

As a consequence of the external support and the key changes and actions taken within the naíscoil, there have been improvements in the quality of education as reported in the key findings below.

¹ [Pre-School Inspection – Naíscoil an Chreagáin, County Armagh \(etini.gov.uk\)](https://etini.gov.uk)

Key findings

The outcomes for learners remain as good.

Almost all of the children choose where they wish to play, access their own resources and are developing well their confidence, social skills and friendships as they play for extended periods of time in both the indoor and outdoor environments. Their understanding of Irish is very good for the time of year and most of them use confidently single words and short phrases in Irish. Almost all of the children enjoy story and song time and participate eagerly.

The quality of provision has improved and is now good.

The revised approach to the cycle of planning, observation and assessment is guiding well the learning and teaching across all areas of the pre-school curriculum. The improvements made to the layout of the indoor playroom, outdoor resources and organisation of the session provide the children with a range of opportunities to engage in child-led, investigative play and are impacting positively on the children's overall learning experiences. The staff know the children well and the quality of their interactions is mostly good. It will be important that the staff monitor the impact of the reduced number of children on the break routine and on the session in the halla mór (large hall) as elements of these are overly adult directed.

The quality and effectiveness of leadership and management have improved and are now good.

There is a collegial approach to all aspects of the naíscoil and the staff are supported very well in their work by their EYS and the pro-active management committee. As a result of the staff engagement in professional learning they now have a shared understanding of planning for improvement processes. The revised approaches to self-evaluation and action planning are impacting positively on the quality of the provision.

Overall effectiveness

Naíscoil an Chreagáin now demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interests of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the naíscoil sustains improvement in:

- embedding the recently introduced approaches to planning for learning and planning for improvement to continue to raise the quality of provision and outcomes for learners.

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