

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
INSPECTORATE

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

Naíscoil na Daróige, Derry

Irish-medium, voluntary pre-school, DE Ref No 2BB-0511

Report of a Follow-up Inspection in June 2024



Providing Inspection services for:
Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Follow-up to the inspection of Naíscoil na Daróige, Derry, BT48 0PD (2BB-0511)

Introduction

Naíscoil na Daróige is an Irish-medium voluntary pre-school located in the grounds of Gaelscoil na Daróige in the Ballymagroarty area of Derry city. The 20 children attending the part-time session come from the immediate local area and Derry city. Almost 50% of the children come from homes where Irish is spoken.

This follow-up inspection was carried out in June 2024 and provided the naíscoil with the opportunity to demonstrate its progress in addressing the areas for action from the time of the last follow-up inspection in December 2022.

In the interim, a new leader has been appointed and the naíscoil was granted statutory status by the Department of Education in April 2024, which will come into effect in September 2024.

Views of parents, staff and pupils

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

All of the staff and almost one-half of the parents (45%) responded to the questionnaire. All of the staff responses were wholly positive as were almost all of the parental responses. Just over one-half (56%) of the parents who responded to the questionnaire included written comments, all of which were very positive and highlighted in particular: the welcoming and nurturing community within the naíscoil; their children's enjoyment of the naíscoil and their progress in the Irish language; and the range of interesting learning experiences provided for the children.

Key actions

During this period, the key actions which affect the work of the naíscoil include:

- the staff attended training with Altram in relation to settling-in procedures, transition arrangements and managing behaviour; and
- the staff have been reviewing and adapting the cycle of planning, observations and assessment throughout the year; the most recent approach has been in place from April 2024.

Key findings

- Almost all of the children are well-settled and engage in purposeful, collaborative play for sustained periods of time, in both the indoor and outdoor play areas. They have a good understanding of the Irish language and most are using single words and short phrases naturally in Irish, through their interactions with each other and when responding to the adults.

- The staff have created an attractive, calm, welcoming and inclusive learning environment. There are meaningful opportunities for the children to engage in child-led play both indoors and outdoors, but the organisation of the day requires review by the staff to ensure the best use of the available time.
- The staff have identified the need to continue to develop their own confidence and competence in the Irish language and have proactively availed of language learning opportunities to enable them to improve further the quality of the immersion environment and the overall linguistic experience for the children.
- The staff have been reviewing and adapting their approach to the cycle of planning, observation and assessment throughout the year. This is at an early stage of development.
- The staff work very well as a team; they engage in ongoing, informal reflective practice and are very supportive of each other. A transitional school development plan is in place for the 2023-24 academic year which was informed by appropriate consultation and is supported on occasions by evaluations which are used to inform next steps.

Areas for action:

- to develop a greater understanding and establish a more robust process of planning for improvement;
- to develop the quality of planning for learning in line with the pre-school curriculum; and
- to agree and develop a system for observing, assessing and monitoring each child's progression and outcomes in learning.

Child Protection

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

The ETI will monitor the progress of the naíscóil in reviewing and updating the child protection policy and complaints procedure to reflect more fully the guidance.

Going Forward


The inspection has highlighted some areas for action.

As Naíscóil na Daróige will become a statutory nursery unit within Gaelscoil na Daróige from September 2024, ETI will monitor, through district inspector visits, the naíscóil's progress in addressing the areas for action detailed in the report.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2024

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the [ETI website](#)

Follow us on  [@ETI_news](#)

 [@ETInews](#)

 InsPIRE

 Empowering
Improvement
Stepping Forward Together