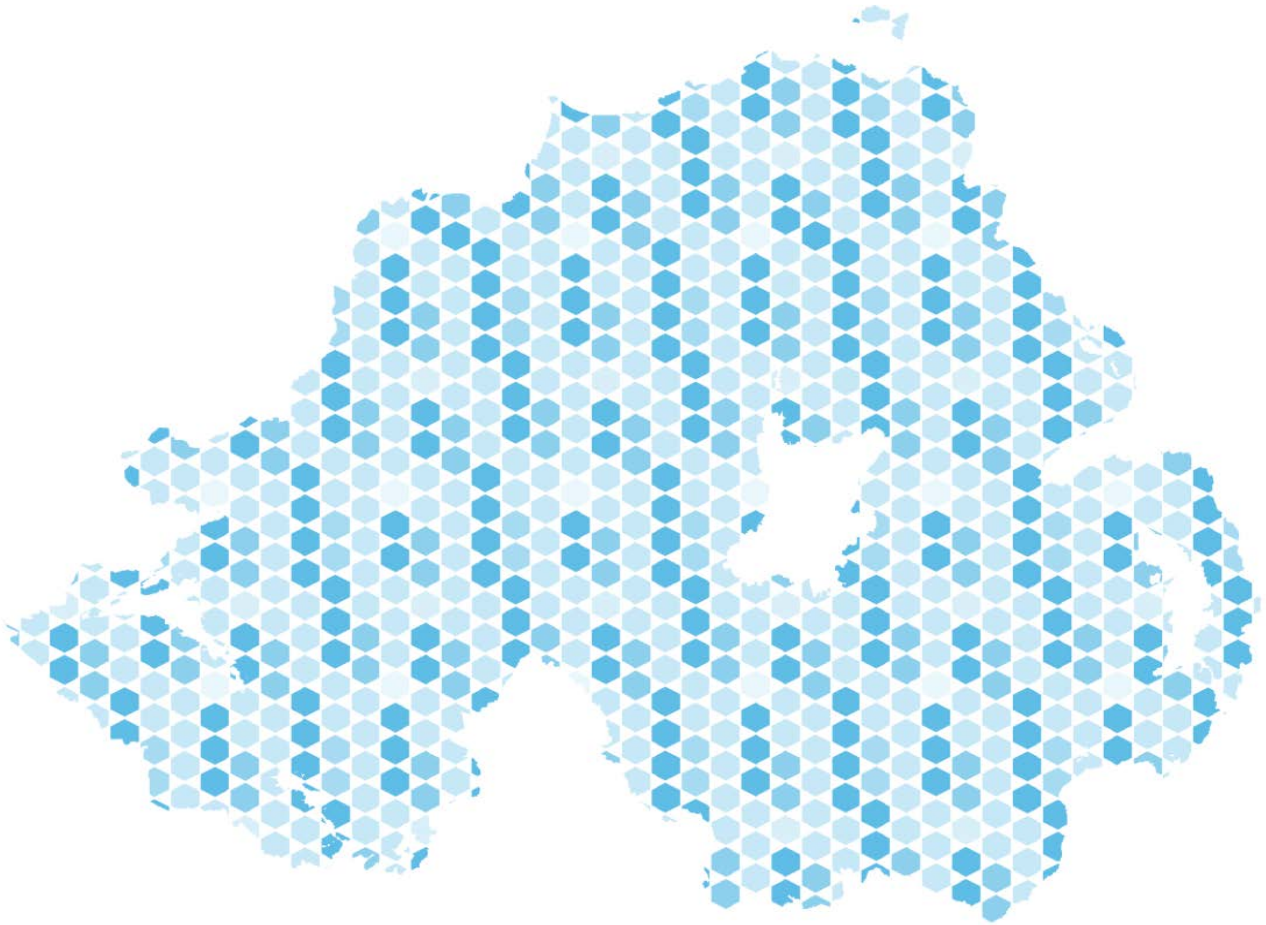


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Ciaran's Primary School,  
Cushendun, County Antrim

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection  
in May 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST CIARAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CUSHENDUN, COUNTY ANTRIM, BT44 0EU (303-6268)**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection<sup>1</sup> in St Ciaran's Primary School in December 2016 which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement included the need to:

- review the medium-term planning, particularly in numeracy, to ensure consistent progression in the children's knowledge, skills and understanding;
- develop a more systematic approach to evaluating key curricular areas to impact positively on the children's learning outcomes; and
- address the safeguarding issues.

The school's action plans were of a good quality and were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI. The school's development plan was amended to address the inspection findings. The ETI carried out a six-week safeguarding follow-up inspection in January 2017, a monitoring visit in April 2017, an interim follow-up visit in September 2017 and a follow-up inspection in May 2018.

In the interval since the original inspection, actions or changes which affect the work of the school include:

- the acting-teaching principal's position has been appointed in a permanent capacity and the arrangements for staffing stabilised;
- the newly appointed literacy and numeracy co-ordinators have been given clear roles and responsibilities and a link curriculum governor identified to support and challenge their work;
- the staff have received ongoing support from representatives of the Education Authority (EA) in the areas of leadership and management and curriculum improvement;
- the staff have developed further the planning for learning across the school; and
- the remaining safeguarding issues from the original inspection have been addressed.

### **Key findings**

- The outcomes for the children are now very good. The school's internal data shows that, almost all of the key stage 2 children are achieving as expected in numeracy and literacy; these standards are also reflected in the written work in their books. The children are very interested in their learning, asking pertinent questions and explaining their reasoning. Their self-reliance and capacity to work together is being developed effectively. In discussions with inspectors, the year 6 and 7 children had a good knowledge of key mathematical concepts and they used confidently and flexibly a variety of mental mathematical strategies. In all classes, the children are developing well their mathematical vocabulary and applying and adapting their thinking skills and personal capabilities in meaningful contexts across the curriculum and where relevant, relating to the world of work.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/primary-inspection-st-ciarans-primary-school-cushendun-county-antrim-303-6268.pdf>

- The quality of provision is now good. The staff support effectively the children's mental and physical health and well-being on a daily basis through specific programmes which contribute to their readiness to learn. The more consistent and appropriately detailed numeracy planning is bringing about improved learning experiences and outcomes for the children. The staff consult on, share and evaluate regularly the impact of the improved planning and active learning and teaching methods. All of the lessons observed during the follow-up process were consistently good and very good in extending the children's learning. The teachers connected the children's skills and knowledge well within interesting cross-curricular contexts; the well-planned tasks and engaging resources contained appropriate progression and challenge for all. The teachers posed questions skilfully to build on the children's prior learning and enabled them to take ownership and make decisions within the lessons.
- The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement are now good. The newly appointed principal shares a clear and strategic vision for continuous school improvement, and working cohesively with the governors and staff, is bringing about significant improvement in all aspects of the provision. The action plans, together with appropriate continuous professional development of staff, are benefitting directly the quality of the children's learning experiences and outcomes. The improved monitoring and evaluation strategies, including the regular consultation between the co-ordinators and the curriculum link governor, inform more rigorously the whole school improvement work. The EA and Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) advisers provided effective support to the school's leadership team and staff; the advisers have contributed to the improvement of the quality of learning and teaching, particularly in mathematics and play-based learning.
- The governors now have a more strategic and better-informed involvement in school life and monitor the progress of the school development plan using first-hand evidence from curriculum leaders, the children and their parents. They are carrying out their roles and responsibilities more effectively: consequently, there can be confidence in the aspects of governance evaluated.
- On the basis of the evidence available, the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education. The training, policy and procedure matters identified at the time of the original inspection have been addressed fully and are now kept under systematic review.
- 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 and the school's provision and budget in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

### **Overall effectiveness**

St Ciaran's 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:

- developing further the evaluating role of the co-ordinators.

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