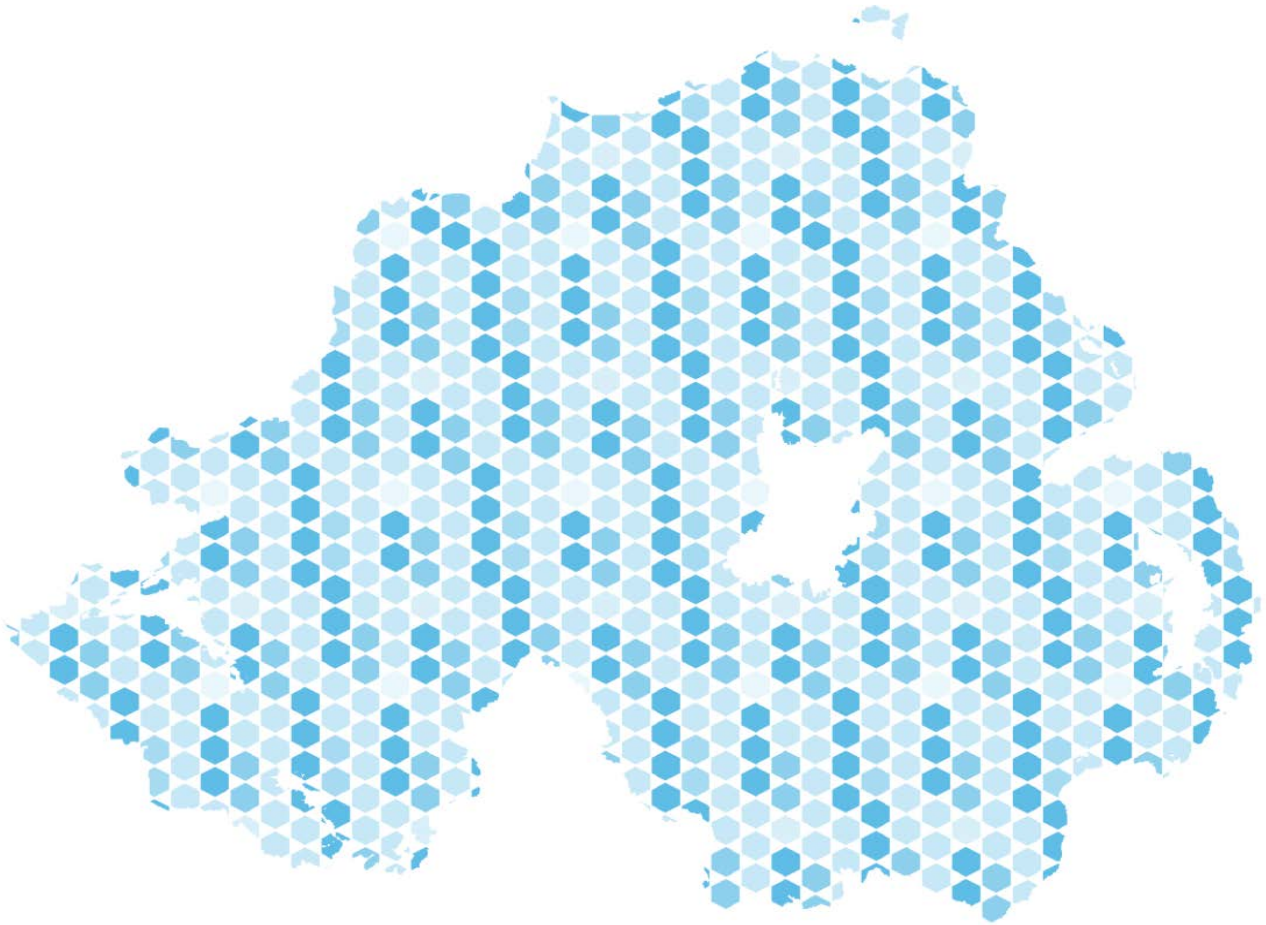


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Oliver Plunkett Primary
School, Strathfoyle, County Derry

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
in January 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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CUSTOMER
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST OLIVER PLUNKETT PRIMARY SCHOOL, DERRY, BT47 6XA (203-6143)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of St Oliver Plunkett Primary School in February 2016¹, which concluded that the school needed to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were for the:

- teachers to adopt a more rigorous and collaborative approach to planning, learning and teaching, and assessment in order to raise the achievements and standards of the children, particularly in mathematics and writing; and
- senior leadership team and learning co-ordinators to monitor and evaluate rigorously the impact of the actions to promote improvement within their areas of responsibility.

As a consequence, the Department of Education entered the school into the Formal Intervention Process under the Every School a Good School² policy in March 2016.

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 adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in January 2017 and a follow-up inspection in January 2018.

In the interval since the original inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- a new vice-principal was appointed in September 2017 and three new teaching staff have been appointed on a temporary basis;
- the co-ordinators' roles and responsibilities have been reviewed and a new literacy co-ordinator has been appointed;
- the leadership and management, in consultation with the children, staff, parents and governors, have reviewed, developed and implemented key policies and practices;
- the governors, leadership and staff have availed of high quality support from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Education Authority (EA).

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/primary-inspection-st-oliver-plunkett-primary-school-strathfoyle-county-derry.pdf>

² [Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement | Department of Education](#)

Key findings

- The outcomes for learners are now good. In discussions with inspectors, the year 7 children were able to talk about their favourite authors and compare and contrast text to film; they read with evident enjoyment and fluency. In the children's literacy books, there is now evidence of a wider range of forms and writing for a variety of purposes. The most able children in year 7 have a good knowledge of key mathematical concepts. They use appropriate mathematical language and are confident in applying a range of mental mathematical strategies to answer questions. The school's internal data indicates that most of the children achieve the expected outcomes in literacy and numeracy. Since the original inspection, there has been a reduction in the number of children underachieving in numeracy in key stage (KS) 2.
- The quality of provision is now good. The teachers' evaluations of their planning are now thorough, specific and focused on the children's learning needs. In the best practice, these evaluations are used to inform future planning. All of the lessons observed during the follow-up process were good and just under one-half were very good. The most effective lessons were characterised by positive working relationships, the children's engagement in their learning and investigative approaches. There is now an agreed whole-school approach to marking the children's work; in the most effective practice, the children have the opportunity to act on this feedback and improve their work through the re-drafting process.
- The quality of leadership, management and action to promote improvement, evaluated previously as requiring significant improvement, has improved and is now an important area for improvement. Significant work has been undertaken to put appropriate, collegial structures in place to monitor the children's attitudes towards their learning, the quality of the children's work and the teachers' planning. The evaluation of the impact of the learning experiences and outcomes of the children and the use of such information to inform the ongoing action planning process are areas for further development.
- There can be confidence in the aspects of governance evaluated. The governors have developed significantly their roles, notably by engaging directly with co-ordinators to monitor the progress of the action plans. Communication and consultation at all levels have improved greatly; the senior leaders seek, and act upon, the views of the children, parents, staff and governors.
- The areas identified in the safeguarding arrangements in the original report have been addressed. In discussions with the inspectors, the year 6 children reported that they feel safe and happy in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their well-being.

Overall effectiveness

St Oliver Plunkett Primary School needs to address an important area for improvement. The follow-up inspection has identified the following area for improvement:

- to evaluate further the impact of the learning experiences and outcomes of the children.

The ETI will conduct a further follow-up inspection in 12 to 18 months.

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