## St MacNissi's Primary School, Newtownabbey

## Inspection Summary Report - November 2024

- The school's child-friendly vision is fully realised in the children's evident enjoyment of their learning.
- The well-embedded processes for monitoring all aspects of the provision are extensive and robust. The senior leaders have prioritised appropriately the reengagement in first-hand observations of learning to inform the school's self-evaluation processes, identify highly effective practice and share it with all staff.
- A key strength of the provision is the wholeschool focus on the development of thinking skills which enables all of the children to structure their thought processes, reflect on their learning, develop ideas and solve problems.
- Assessment for learning strategies are highly effective and consistently applied across the year groups.
- The early identification of the children who have barriers to their learning and the quality of the support provided for them are key strengths and are having a positive impact on the children's outcomes.
- The skilful teachers and classroom assistants use a range of strategies effectively, including active learning and multi-sensory approaches, to meet the children's individual needs.
- Throughout the school, the children are confident, attentive, fully engaged in their learning and responsive to their teachers.
- The senior leaders foster a vibrant and inclusive community of learning which prioritises the ongoing professional learning of all staff.

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

Area for action identified by the school:

for senior and middle leaders to re-engage in first-hand observations of learning in order to inform the school's self-evaluation processes and identify and share highly effective practice.

## **Going forward**

- St MacNissi's Primary School is successfully realising its vision for the all-round development of the children through the whole staff's child-centred approach to learning and teaching and the consistently high levels of care they provide. The senior leaders plan strategically to identify the children's changing needs and prioritise staff professional learning to meet effectively these needs.
- The ETI will continue to work with St MacNissi's Primary School, including to share examples of highly effective practice from which others may learn. The aspects of practice which should be shared more widely are:
  - the whole-school focus on the development of thinking skills; and
  - the early identification of, and support provided to, the children who have additional needs.
- St MacNissi's Primary School is well placed to take forward the priorities they have identified through their own development planning processes.

