St Malachy's Nursery School, Newry

Inspection Summary Report - October 2024

- All staff and governors at St Malachy's Nursery School are wholly committed to their motto 'nurture the seed and it will grow'. They work collaboratively, in line with their vision, to provide every child with opportunities to make progress from their individual starting points.
- As a result of a strategic and robust selfevaluation process, planning for learning and teaching has improved and is aligned to the pre-school curriculum. Reviewing the focus on the intended learning and the development of the children's skills within the planning would help embed the practice that exists within the nursery school.
- The breadth and quality of the children's learning experiences have been enriched greatly as a result of the significant transformation of both the indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- There is a happy and inclusive ethos in the nursery. The nurturing and skilled staff respond sensitively and insightfully to the needs of individual children. They use a range of bespoke resources and strategies to support the children to understand and manage their own emotions and play alongside their peers.
- Almost all of the children are very well settled and are developing their independence, problem-solving and social skills. They follow with ease the well-embedded routines and transitions and engage in the range of interesting learning opportunities available to them.
- Excellent and purposeful partnerships with parents, the nearby primary school, a range of health and educational professionals, and the wider community, support the staff in achieving successfully their vision.

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

Area for consideration:

to review the focus on the intended learning and the development of the children's skills within the planning, so that the practice that exists in the nursery can be embedded.

Going forward

- The vision of St Malachy's Nursery School to foster a nurturing and stimulating environment is successfully realised through: the dedication of its highly skilled staff; the commitment of the staff to the holistic development of each child; and the staff's support for the communities from which the children come. The staff are meeting effectively the needs of the children in a child-centred, happy and inclusive environment.
- ETI will continue to work with St Malachy's Nursery School, including to share examples of highly effective practice from which others may learn. The aspect of practice which should be shared more widely is:
 - the bespoke, inclusive strategies which support the children to understand and manage their own emotions and promotes their participation and inclusion.

St Malachy's Nursery School is well placed to take forward the area for consideration within the report.



