Steeple Nursery School, Antrim

Inspection Summary Report - November 2024

- The nursery school's vision to empower children to become happy and confident learners is achieved fully through the nurturing and stimulating provision that values the views and interests of the children and aligns with their status as a 'Rights Respecting' nursery school.
- The high-quality interactions of the skilful staff are impacting positively on the children's learning and on their health and wellbeing.
- The staff know the children well and make insightful observations of the children's learning to effectively inform planning and to ensure progression across all areas of the pre-school curriculum.
- The children use naturally early mathematical language during play and are developing well their independence, confidence and resilience as they explore the extensive outdoor learning environment.
- The children who have been identified as having special educational needs are fully involved in the life of the nursery school and are making good progress.
- The staff have established very effective respectful relationships with parents/carers and value them as an integral part of the nursery school community.
- At the time of the inspection, the evidence provided by the nursery school demonstrates that the arrangements for child protection align to the current statutory guidance.

Going forward

- Steeple Nursery School is achieving successfully its child-centred and inclusive vision. The children are happy, confident learners who are benefitting from investigative and exploratory play in a highly stimulating learning environment.
- Inspectors identified an aspect of highly effective practice from which others may learn. The aspect of practice which should be shared more widely is:
 - the staff's high-quality role modelling and effective interactions which encourages the children to problemsolve, develop their thinking skills and extend their learning.
- The ETI will continue to work with Steeple Nursery School, including to share the example of highly effective practice set out above from which others may learn.



