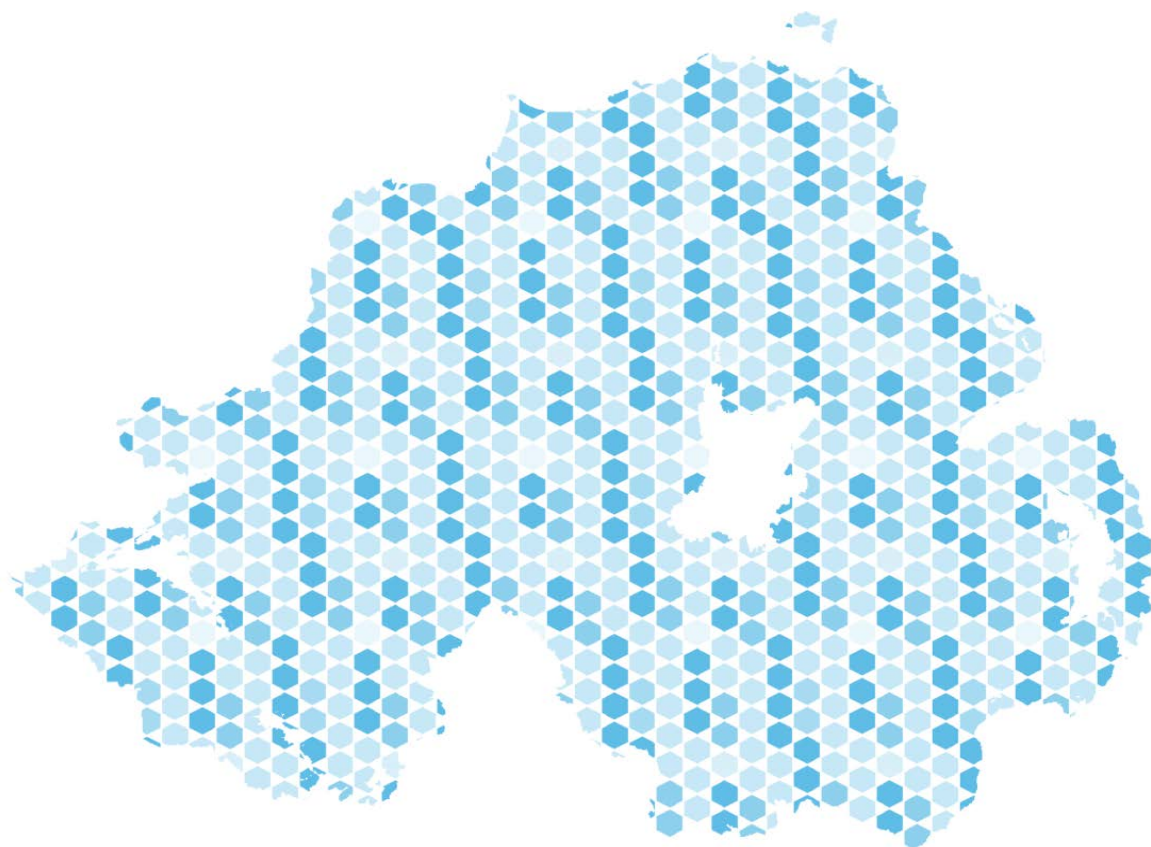


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Abbey Primary School and Nursery
Unit, Newtownards, County Down

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Monitoring Inspection
in May 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Monitoring Inspection of Abbey Primary School and Nursery Unit, Newtownards, County Down (401-6399)

Introduction

The aim of the Monitoring Inspection is to evaluate the extent to which the leadership and management uses self-evaluation effectively to inform the development planning process to bring about improvement. The outcome of the inspection will inform future inspection activity.

Focus of the inspection

The inspection focused on evaluating action to promote improvement and its impact on learning and teaching and outcomes for children.

During the inspection, lines of inquiry were selected from the development plan priorities; the school was asked to demonstrate if and how the actions taken have led to improvement for the children.

The lines of inquiry focused on the school's actions to:

- embed mental mathematics strategies and related mathematical language in everyday numeracy tasks to help the children to complete and explain activities and calculations and raise further their standards in numeracy; and
- monitor and develop further the children's use of new technologies, including iPads, to enrich and develop learning, raise standards in both literacy and numeracy and share and disseminate the most effective practice throughout the school.

Key findings

- Having identified, through analysis of relevant data, professional judgement and self-evaluation, the need to build the children's confidence in number and problem-solving, the teachers reviewed resources and teaching approaches with an appropriate focus on mental mathematics strategies. As a result, the children are increasingly confident and competent in using relevant mathematical vocabulary and flexible thinking to explain their mathematical reasoning with enhanced precision.
- The school has invested strategically and creatively in the development of information and communication technology (ICT) in order to raise standards in all areas of learning and, in particular, in literacy and numeracy. Salient features of this provision include: the opportunity for children in key stage (KS) 2 to become digital leaders mentoring, for example, KS1 children in the use of iPads; a clear focus on the development of coding and how the related skills are akin to those required in numeracy; and, the training of staff including the learning assistants. Applications are used skilfully by the children to engage in peer evaluation and to share and explain their learning. Information and communication technology is also being utilised to communicate and interact with parents including email, text and 'Abbey TV' which is accessed through the school website.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. In discussion with a selection of year 6 children, they report that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

Conclusion

At the time of inspection, and for the lines of inquiry selected, the school is identifying and bringing about the necessary improvements in the quality of education. This will be reflected in future inspection arrangements.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2017

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk