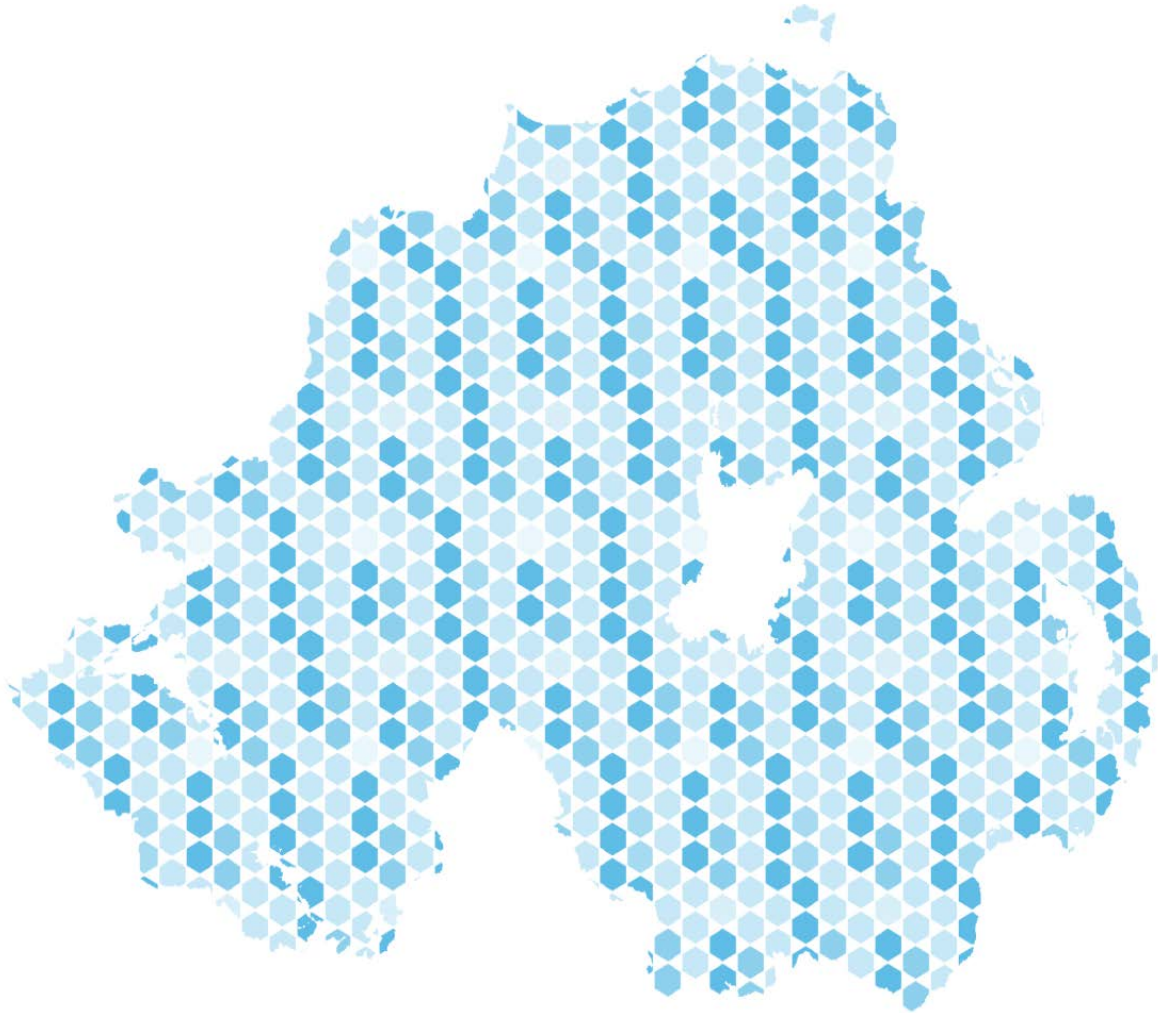


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Armstrong Primary School and  
Learning Support Centre,  
Armagh

Report of a Sustaining  
Improvement Inspection  
in January 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
and other commissioning Departments



# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Armstrong Primary School and Learning Support Centre, Armagh (501-1115)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in October 2013, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Armstrong Primary School and Learning Support Centre as outstanding<sup>1</sup>. A major refurbishment of the whole-school is well underway and is due to be completed in March 2017.

A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 9 January 2017.

## **Focus of the inspection**

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- development of play-based learning; and
- developments in numeracy with a focus on underachievement and high achievement.

## **Key findings**

- The children in the foundation stage have access to a varied and stimulating play-based programme that complements their learning across all curricular areas. There is comprehensive planning available to guide the staff in their work and the revised snack routine provides valuable additional opportunities for the children to work independently and develop their social skills. The development of a new, progressively challenging outdoor play area has been identified appropriately by staff as an area for development to extend further the physical play programme.
- Appropriate strategies, intervention and support programmes, new initiatives and additional resources have been put in place to ensure positive outcomes for all children. The school's data indicates a reduction in the number of children underachieving and a significant rise in those overachieving in mathematics.
- The Learning Support Centre is an integral part of the school and excellent opportunities are provided for the children to share learning with their peers.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect<sup>2</sup> the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

## **Conclusion**

Armstrong Primary School and Learning Support Centre continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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<sup>1</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

<sup>2</sup> From January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as comprehensive are reported as **reflect** the guidance.

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