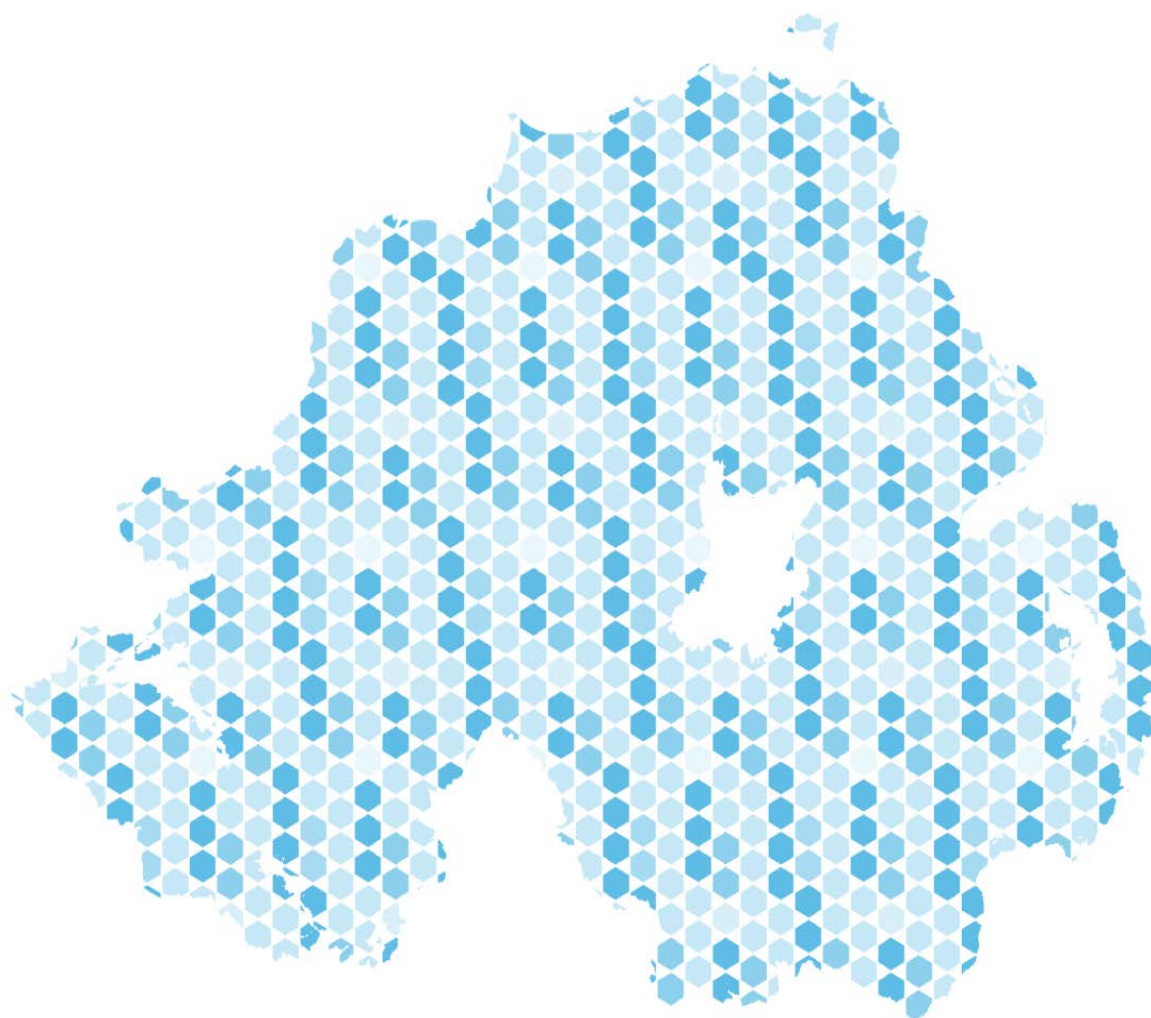


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ballyhenry Primary School,
Newtownabbey, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in March 2017

eti

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 Ballyhenry Primary School, Newtownabbey, County Antrim (303-3313)

Introduction

The previous inspection, in February 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Ballyhenry Primary School as very good¹. In the interim, a new principal has been appointed and a new senior leadership team established in the school; in addition, three of the teachers are acting in a temporary capacity. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 20 March 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:

- the further development of the quality of the provision in literacy; and
- the improvement in the quality of the provision for play-based learning.

Key findings

- The staff use effectively a range of data to inform the developments in literacy for individual children, year groups, and across the key stages. The appropriate priorities are outlined in the school development plan and the subsequent action plans for literacy. A small number of the targets within the literacy action plans require further detail regarding the measurement and timescales for improvement. The children's standards in literacy are very good.
- The provision for play is of a good quality. The staff have developed: sufficiently detailed schemes of work for play-based-learning that reflect a thematic approach; and, an effective computer based system to record the progress and observations related to each child's development in the foundation stage. The outdoor play provision is an area for continued development by the foundation stage staff.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding now reflect broadly² the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Work on the following aspects is underway and needs to be completed:

- secure access arrangements for the newly fitted emergency doors; and
- updated child protection training for the chairperson of the board of governors.

¹ 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.

² From January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as satisfactory are reported as reflect broadly the guidance.

Conclusion

Ballyhenry Primary School 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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