

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ballynure Primary School,
Ballyclare, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in November 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Ballynure Primary School, Ballyclare, County Antrim (301-0802)

Introduction

The previous inspection in October 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Ballynure Primary School as very good¹. There have been two new appointments to the teaching staff since the last inspection, consequently, some restructuring and re-assignment of teaching roles has taken place particularly in the foundation stage. The school enrolment has increased by around one-third over the past four years and now stands at 150 children. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on November 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 line of inquiry during the SII was:

- to develop further the teachers' planning for, and children's progression in, the programme for play-based learning.

Key findings

- The staff have, after a comprehensive review, implemented an appropriate scheme for play-based learning. They have engaged in professional development including internal and externally led staff training and sharing of good practice with other schools; these actions have resulted in the successful updating of the teachers' planning, assessments, evaluations and records of learning.
- The programme for learning includes effective opportunities for the children to develop their talking, listening and numeracy skills through well devised activities and productive play-based learning. The quality of the learning and teaching observed was consistently very good across the key stages.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. During discussions, the children in year 6 report that they feel safe in school and they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. However, the school needs to ensure that the recently appointed designated governor for safeguarding and child protection receives the appropriate Education Authority training.

Conclusion

Ballynure Primary School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The Education and Training Inspectorate will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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

Health and safety

- Work on the pedestrian gate to the front of the school should be undertaken to secure the school grounds.

Accommodation

Due, in part, to the increased enrolment:

- there is inadequate storage facilities around the school; and
- there are insufficient areas for withdrawal and peripatetic support classes.

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