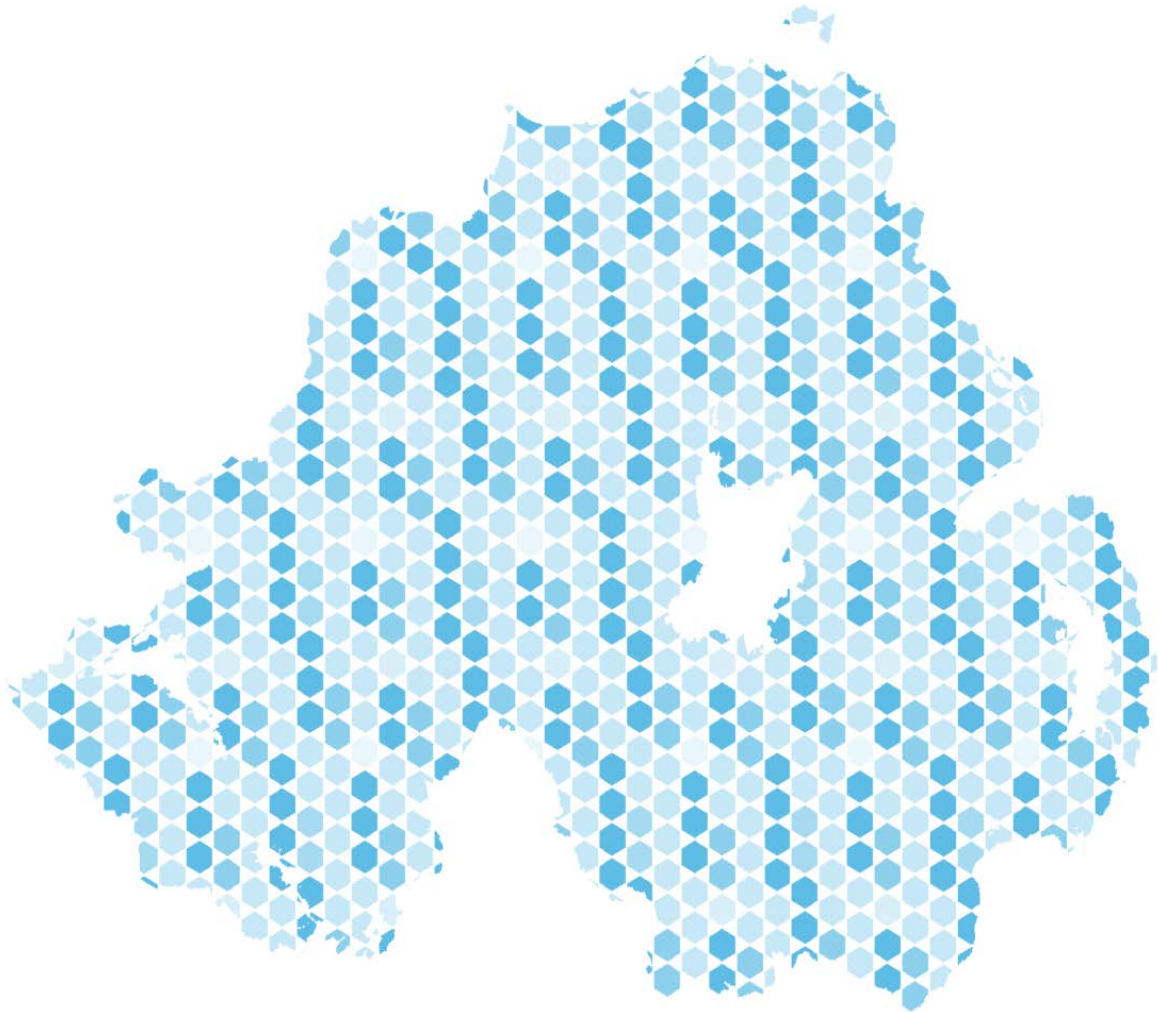


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Cairncastle Primary School,  
Ballygally, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining  
Improvement Inspection  
in January 2018



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 Cairncastle Primary School, Ballygally, County Antrim, BT40 2RB (301-6269)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in October 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Cairncastle Primary School as good<sup>1</sup>. In the interim period, there have been changes to the key roles and responsibilities of co-ordinators, an increase in the number of children presenting with complex additional needs and a decrease in the school enrolment. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 29 January 2018.

## **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 to:

- improve the processes of monitoring and evaluating to inform the learning and teaching and raise further the children's outcomes; and
- improve the quality of the opportunities for the younger children to develop their self-management skills and make independent choices.

## **Key findings**

- Systematic processes are now in place to monitor and evaluate a broad range of qualitative and quantitative data to inform classroom practice and track the progress of individual children. The children's spelling has improved across the school as a result of using the data to inform new approaches to learning and teaching.
- The younger children collaborate well during their numeracy activities as they apply their mathematical language, skills and knowledge during small group tasks. They make independent choices and decisions to develop their own ideas during their play-based learning.

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education.

## **Conclusion**

Cairncastle Primary School continues to demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement. In particular, the ability of the children in key stage 2 to articulate more confidently their mathematical thinking and reasoning and the further development of the action plans to include more measureable targets.

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<sup>1</sup> A school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

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