

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Cloughoge Primary School and Nursery Unit, Newry, County Down

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (503-1130)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection in May 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Cloughoge Primary School and Nursery Unit, Newry, County Down (503-1130)

Introduction

The previous inspection in April 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Cloughoge Primary School and Nursery Unit as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. In the interim, there have been two new appointments to the senior leadership team. The children were awarded recently first prize for their video application to obtain a community grant for gardening in the school. The school has a very supportive and inclusive ethos. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 29 May 2019.

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 improve the children's outcomes in mathematics across the school.

Key findings

- The school and nursery unit's processes of self-evaluation are very good, including skilful and in-depth analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, leading to the selection of appropriate priorities to effect improvement. Senior leadership has worked strategically to address underachievement in mathematics including the establishment of a curriculum 'mathematics team' to lead and develop a whole school collegial approach to improvement in outcomes, for all learners. Expectations for children have been raised, planning and teaching strategies have been developed effectively and new resources have been introduced, with ongoing monitoring and evaluation. Levels of underachievement in mathematics have reduced significantly and achievement overall in mathematics has increased.
- The children in the nursery are experiencing a stimulating learning environment which is number-rich in developmentally appropriate learning opportunities; the nursery is providing an effective foundation for transition to primary mathematics. All of the mathematics lessons observed during the inspection, including observation of the mathematics support programme, were of a very good standard.

- Raising awareness among children and parents has been integral to the whole-school approach to raising attainment in mathematics; and the introduction of 'mathematics buddies' for key stage (KS) 2 children to support KS 1 children is making an important contribution. The children are enthusiastic when engaging in mental mathematics activities and enjoy opportunities to work on tasks that involve the application of mathematics, in particular, the development of their financial capabilities through their involvement in the 'Young Enterprise Business Beginnings' programme and working in teams.
- The group of year 7 children, who met with the inspector, had a very good understanding of the use of a broad range of mathematical processes to answer questions accurately. They applied very good problem-solving skills and explained their answers well, using the appropriate mathematical language.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. The year 6 children, who met with the inspector, reported that they feel safe in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. The children are knowledgeable about how to stay safe online.

Conclusion

Cloughoge Primary School and Nursery Unit 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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