

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Gilnahirk Primary School,
Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in April 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 Gilnahirk Primary School, Belfast (401-1606)

Introduction

The previous inspection in May 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Gilnahirk Primary School as outstanding¹. Since the last inspection, a new principal has been appointed. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 23 April 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 raise further the quality of the children's learning experience in literacy by developing key comprehension skills including a focus on reciprocal reading; and
- to continue to improve the very good standards achieved by the children in numeracy with a recent whole-school focus on shape and space.

Key findings

- The school's recent emphasis on developing the children's comprehension skills was evident in the confident and articulate responses the children gave to the effective questioning which featured as a key strength of the lessons observed. A selection of year 7 children discussed enthusiastically their reading preferences and read fluently with an intonation reflecting their understanding at an inferential level.
- The school has developed an effective range of practical shape and space activities which have been embedded well into the planning, learning and teaching of numeracy. The benefits of this focus for the children and the high expectations for what they can achieve are evident in their growing confidence in these concepts and the ability to apply this knowledge to real-life contexts.
- In both literacy and numeracy, the staff have shown a readiness and collegiality, under the strategic guidance of the senior leadership team and co-ordinators, to develop a shared understanding of breadth and progression through the key stages together with appropriate challenge and support for all of the children.

Safeguarding

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

Conclusion

Gilnahirk 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.

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.

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