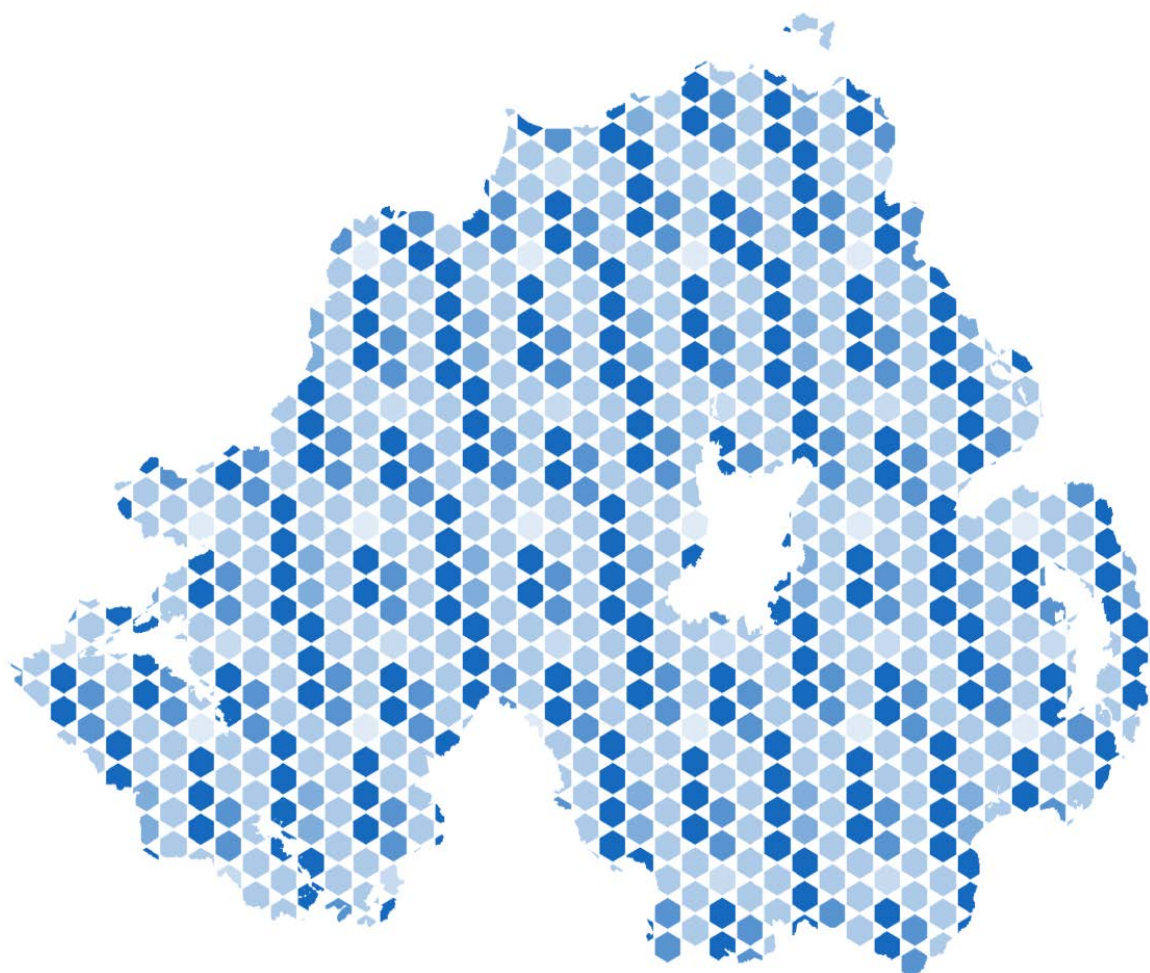


SPECIAL SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Kilronan Special School,
Magherafelt, County Derry

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in March 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Kilronan School, Magherafelt, County Derry (331-6570)

Introduction

The ETI carried out a sustaining improvement inspection (SII) of Kilronan School in November 2013. The school was evaluated as continuing to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. A second SII was conducted on 14 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 enhancement of the learning and teaching of literacy across the school; and
- the development of further provision for world around us with a particular focus on a variety of learning experiences for pupils.

Key findings

- There has been a whole school focus on enhancing the learning and teaching of literacy to meet more effectively the pupils' wide ranging needs. This has included professional training on the use of communication aids, a focus on the development of functional literacy and a review of literacy resources including the banded reading series. Literacy provision is reviewed through classroom observations, photographic evidence and the use of a developing online portfolio to monitor planning and progression in literacy for all pupils. The introduction of a reading area in the school has resulted in regular timetabled story sessions for all classes, modelled by the literacy co-ordinator. The use of talking photo albums and communication books are highly effective in meeting the needs of non-verbal pupils and personalised reading books are used well to support emerging readers. A recent literacy initiative for key stage 2 pupils, which combines the use of information and communication technology, film and drama, is effective in developing the pupils' confidence and language development. Literacy support is delivered through reading and language intervention programmes and there is evidence that this is impacting positively on pupil outcomes.
- A rigorous whole school audit has been completed to identify strengths and areas for development in the World Around Us. This has been aligned closely to professional development and the priority areas identified in the school development plan. Consequently, there has been an emphasis on outdoor learning, a review of topic based learning across the school and the development of lesson exemplars which focus on varied learning experiences to motivate and engage the pupils. The potential for cross-curricular learning is fully exploited and there are regular opportunities for the pupils to evaluate, discuss and extend their learning. Information and communication technology is used very effectively by the pupils to reflect on their learning. The planning prioritises active and sensory learning experiences which are differentiated well to meet the needs of all the pupils. Through the generosity of the local community and the work of the Friends of Kilronan, the sensory garden has been redesigned and provides purposeful and enhanced learning experiences for outdoor learning.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect¹ the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Conclusion

Kilronan 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 January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as comprehensive are reported as **reflect** the guidance.

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