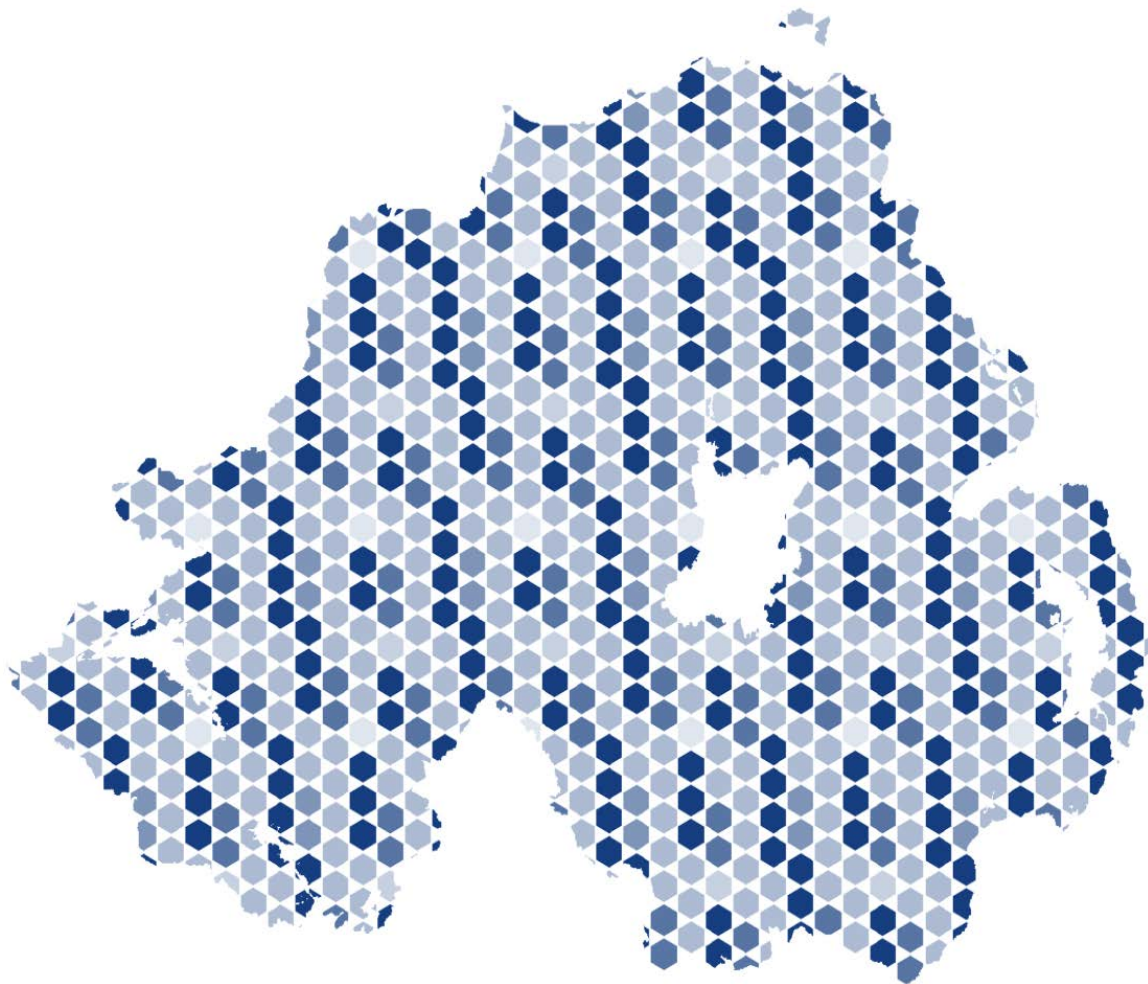


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Markethill High School,
County Armagh

Controlled, non-selective, 11-16 co-educational school

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection in May 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Markethill High School, County Armagh (521-0083)

Introduction

The previous inspection, in October 2013, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Markethill High School, as very good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 4 May 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 its provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were to:

- improve further the quality of learning and teaching; and
- raise further the standards the pupils achieve at Key Stage (KS) 4.

Key findings

- Under the highly strategic leadership of the principal, all staff have worked collegially and assiduously to improve the quality of learning and teaching through the development and consistent implementation of a school-designed, research-informed approach to classroom practice. All of the lessons observed during the inspection were highly effective in promoting the pupils' learning.
- Since the last inspection, the outcomes achieved by the pupils at KS 4 have risen steadily; in particular, the standards achieved by the boys resulted in a narrowing of the gender gap at GCSE level. The proportion of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalent, including English and mathematics, at grades A* to C is now significantly above the average for similar schools. This improvement reflects the developments in learning and teaching, the highly effective analysis and use of data, the focus on meeting better the needs of boys and the fusion of the school's pastoral and academic work.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect² the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The pupils reported that they feel very safe, happy and secure in school.

Conclusion

Markethill High 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 previously evaluated as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

² From January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as comprehensive are reported as **reflect** the guidance.

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