

Education and Training Inspectorate PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Brigid's Primary School, Mayogall, County Derry

Maintained, co-educational DE ref no (303-6103)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection in January 2019



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 St Brigid's Primary School, Mayogall, County Derry (303-6103)

Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2015, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Brigid's Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. In the interim, the school has been successful in its application to become a digital school in Northern Ireland and continues its participation in a shared education partnership with a local controlled primary school. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 9 and 10 January 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 raise further the quality of the children's learning across the curriculum by merging the use of digital technologies with conventional strategies.

Key findings

- The school's processes of self-evaluation, leading to improvement, are highly developed. Since the previous inspection, the staff have identified appropriate areas for improvement through the analysis of the school's qualitative and quantitative data, and this has impacted positively on the children's standards in literacy, numeracy and information and communication technology (ICT). The senior leadership employs a collegial approach with a shared vision to provide high quality child-centred provision.
- During the inspection, the lessons observed were very good. From the foundation stage, the children are confident in their use of digital technology, including the use of programmable devices to support their learning. As they progress through the school, the children develop positive attitudes and dispositions to applying and transferring their ICT skills across the curriculum. In discussion with a group of year 7 children, they spoke enthusiastically about their learning and, in particular, spoke with confidence in their use of digital technologies. By the end of key stage (KS) 1 and KS 2, all children achieve their expected levels in Using ICT.

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, with whom the inspectors met, reported that they feel safe in school and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. The children know how to keep safe online, when at school or at home.

Conclusion

St Brigid's 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.

Health and safety/Accommodation

1. The oil tank at the rear door is not secure from access due to a low level wall.
2. Disability access is limited in areas of the school, particularly in the playgrounds.
3. The leadership team, governors and employing authority need to address urgently the environmental health issue regarding the school's drainage system.
4. Water enters a number of locations, including classrooms, due to deterioration of roofs and windows.
5. The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service's (NIFRS) recommendations with respect to fire exits have not yet been actioned.

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