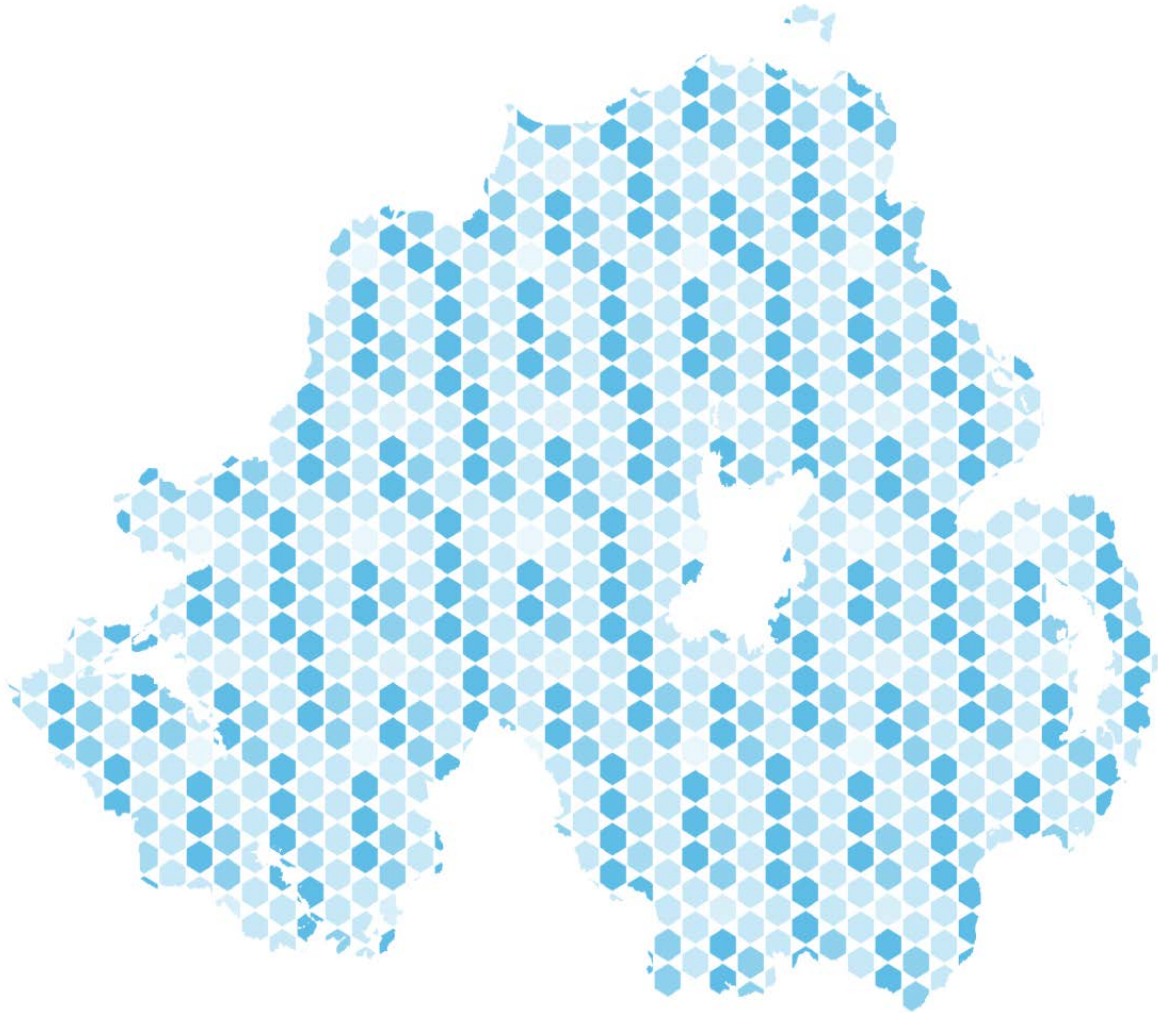


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Joseph's Primary School,  
Ballycruttle, Downpatrick,  
County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement  
Inspection in February 2017



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 Joseph's Primary School, Ballycruttle, County Down (403-1231)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in November 2013 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Joseph's Primary School as very good<sup>1</sup>. In the interim there has been a change in senior leadership with the appointment of a principal in September 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 27 February 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 development of children's comprehensions skills; and
- the development of word problems within numeracy.

### **Key findings**

- Since the last inspection, the staff have identified appropriate areas for improvement through analysing the school's internal assessment data; however, the development work has not impacted sufficiently on the children's standards in comprehension and in their understanding of word problems within numeracy. The teachers have identified aptly the need to develop further the medium-term planning for both literacy and numeracy, outlining differentiation more clearly and using teacher evaluations to inform the next cycle of planning.
- The newly appointed principal has consulted widely with staff, parents and children in order to inform the new school development plan. While suitable areas for improvement have been identified, the newly developed action plans need to be refined to focus more sharply on raising standards in the quality of the learning and teaching. There is a need for the learning co-ordinators to monitor more closely the learning, teaching and outcomes for learners.
- It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding now reflect broadly<sup>2</sup> the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Work on the following aspect is underway and needs to be completed:

- the development of an online safety policy.

## **Conclusion**

St Joseph's Primary School has not demonstrated sufficiently the capacity for sustained improvement; this will be reflected in the future arrangements for inspection of the school.

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<sup>2</sup> From January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as satisfactory are reported as reflect broadly the guidance.

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