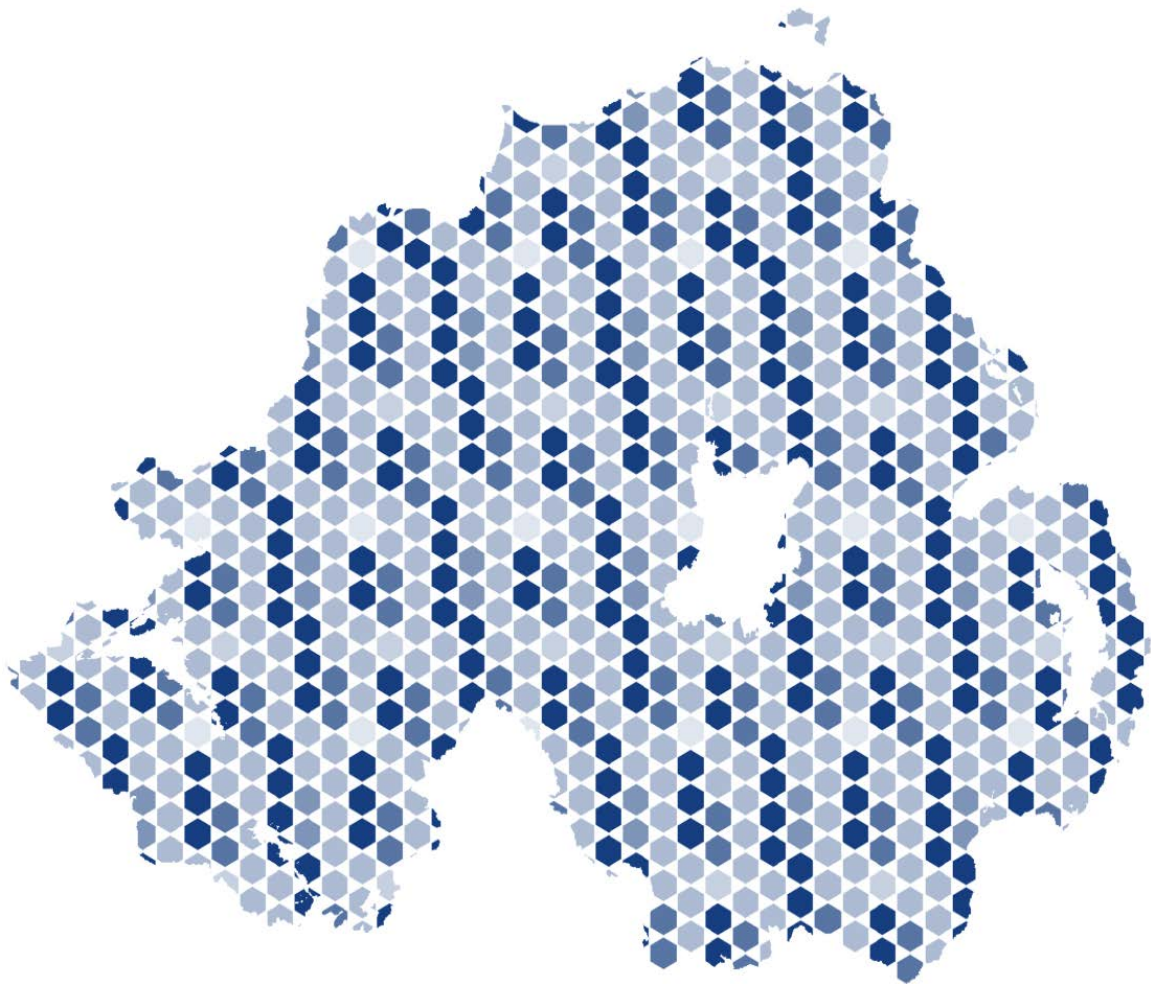


# POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Malachy's High School,  
Castlewellan, County Down

Maintained, co-educational, non-selective school

Report of a Sustaining  
Improvement Inspection  
in October 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 Malachy's High School, Castlewellan (423-0211)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in November 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Malachy's High School as very good<sup>1</sup>. In the interim, there have been significant changes to the senior leadership of the school, including a new principal and vice-principal, and the pending appointment of a senior leader. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on the 25 and 26 October 2017.

## **Focus of the inspection**

The purpose of the SII was to evaluate 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 enquiry during the SII were to:

- continue to raise the level of pupil attainments at key stages four and five; and
- promote further careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) at whole-school level, to include the revision of curriculum pathways at key stage 4 and post-16 based on the changing needs of the pupils and the wider economy.

## **Key findings**

- A range of effective strategies have been implemented which are impacting positively on the outcomes that the pupils attain. These include the introduction of personalised learning, robust tracking of pupil progress, a whole-school focus on high quality learning and teaching and the consistent monitoring of attendance. Consequently, the outcomes attained by the pupils have improved since the last inspection, including those attained by pupils entitled to free school meals.
- An enthusiastic CEIAG team has been established to support the implementation of appropriate whole-school CEIAG priorities. Effective links have been established, and are being developed further, with the community and local industry; this is resulting in better work placement experiences for the pupils and a growing focus on the curriculum pathways around science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. The curriculum is changing appropriately to reflect a broader range of courses to meet more effectively the needs and aspirations of all the pupils.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding pupils reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. The pupils report that they feel safe in the school and are aware what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

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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.

## **Conclusion**

St Malachy's 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.

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