

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Patrick's Primary School and
Nursery Unit, Rasharkin,
County Antrim

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection in November 2017

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The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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CUSTOMER
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Patrick's Primary School, Rasharkin, County Antrim (303-3320)

Introduction

The previous inspection in November 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Unit as outstanding¹. In the interim, the school has maintained a third Eco Flag award, a Fair Trade award and a Level 1 Global Learning award. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on the 29 and 30 of November 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 line of inquiry during the SII was:

- to raise further the quality of the children's learning experiences and attainment across the curriculum through the development of a connected learning approach to the World Around Us.

Key findings

- The school's leadership supports well the co-ordinator in the development of the World Around Us throughout the school. Well focused audits of the school's provision takes into account the children's views and interests, and informs effectively the strategic planning for improvement. There is a collegial approach to securing a shared understanding of what constitutes high quality learning and teaching; all of the lessons observed during the inspection were very good and outstanding in developing the children's learning.
- The planning for the World Around Us outlines imaginative, activity-based learning with the foci on developing connected learning and ensuring a balance across History, Geography and Science and Technology. The children enjoy and participate enthusiastically in practical learning across the curriculum. They express their learning well across a wide range of forms including oral, written, mathematical, digital and creative communication. The inspectors met with members of the Eco- and School councils; the children talked enthusiastically about the opportunities they have to explore, experiment and take risks in their learning, explaining very well their thinking and the skills they are developing through the World Around Us.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education.

Conclusion

St Patrick's Primary School and Nursery Unit continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The Education and Training Inspectorate will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as very good as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

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