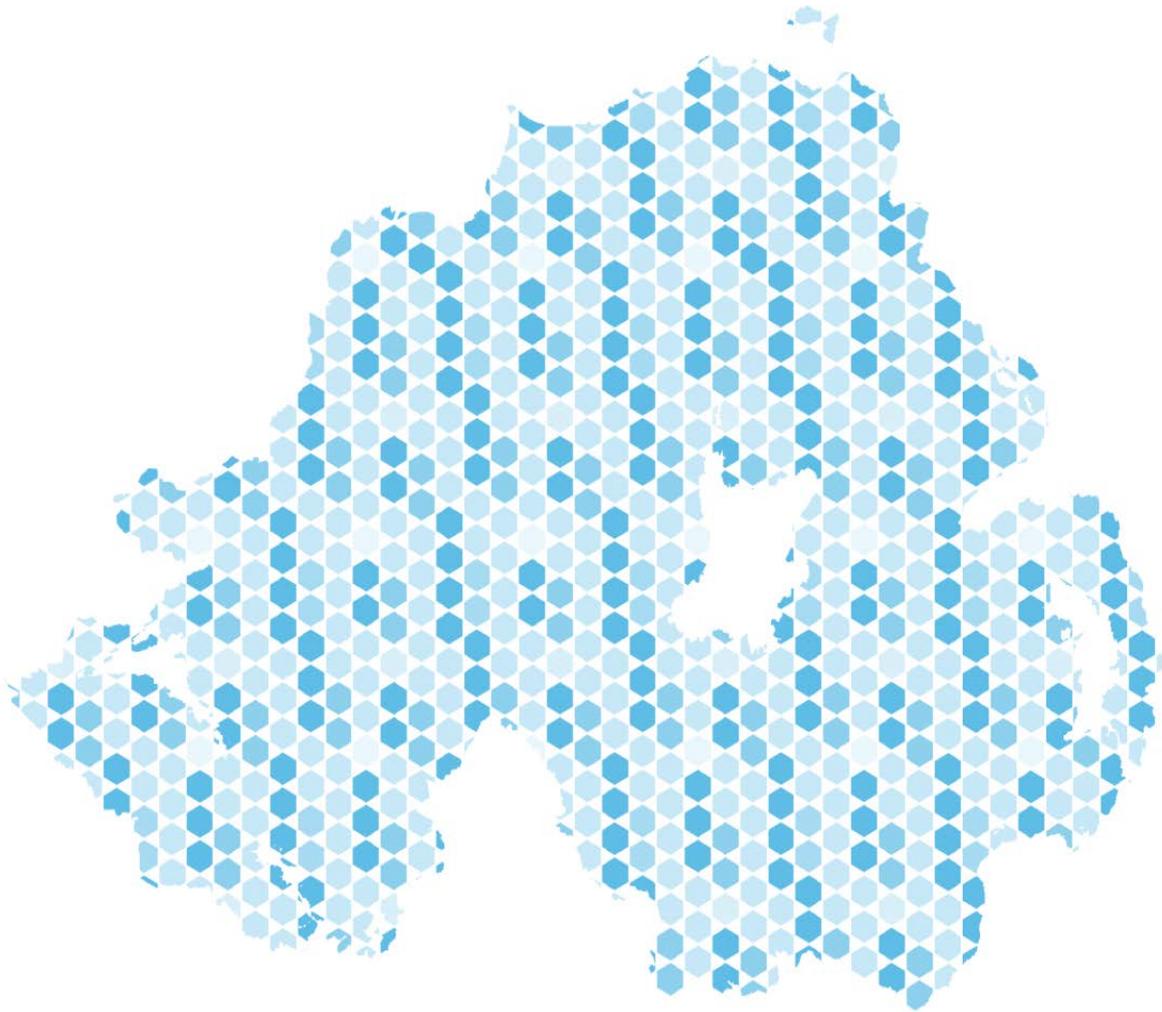


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Drumahoe Primary School,
Drumahoe, County Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational

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



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Drumahoe Primary School, Drumahoe, County Londonderry (201-2227)

Introduction

The previous inspection in February 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Drumahoe Primary School as outstanding¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 24 and 25 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 provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- to raise further the standards the children attain in literacy, in particular, their writing skills; and
- to develop further the children's ability to apply their mathematical knowledge and skills through open-ended and problem-solving activities in numeracy.

Key findings

- There is a well-embedded culture of self-evaluation as evident in the review of the school development plan. The school's performance data is used rigorously by the leadership team and staff to identify trends, track the progress of the children in literacy and numeracy and to provide appropriate interventions. In literacy, the data indicates a reduction in the percentage of children underachieving which reflects the school's clear focus on the development of the children's writing skills, the in-class support and tailored intervention strategies. A selection of year 7 children read with very good fluency, comprehension and expression. They are very enthusiastic about their reading preferences and talked confidently about the variety of writing tasks they enjoy.
- The staff have developed successfully open-ended and problem-solving activities which have been embedded in the planning and they have led to highly effective learning and teaching of numeracy across the key stages. As a result of continuing professional development, the teachers have increased confidence in using strategies to develop the children's skills in using mathematics. The most able children in year 7 are very secure in their knowledge of important mathematical ideas and concepts; they use mathematical language appropriately and apply their mathematical understanding flexibly in real and relevant contexts.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously 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 arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect² the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. During a discussion with a group of year 6 children, they report that they feel safe and secure in school and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

Conclusion

Drumahoe 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.

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

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