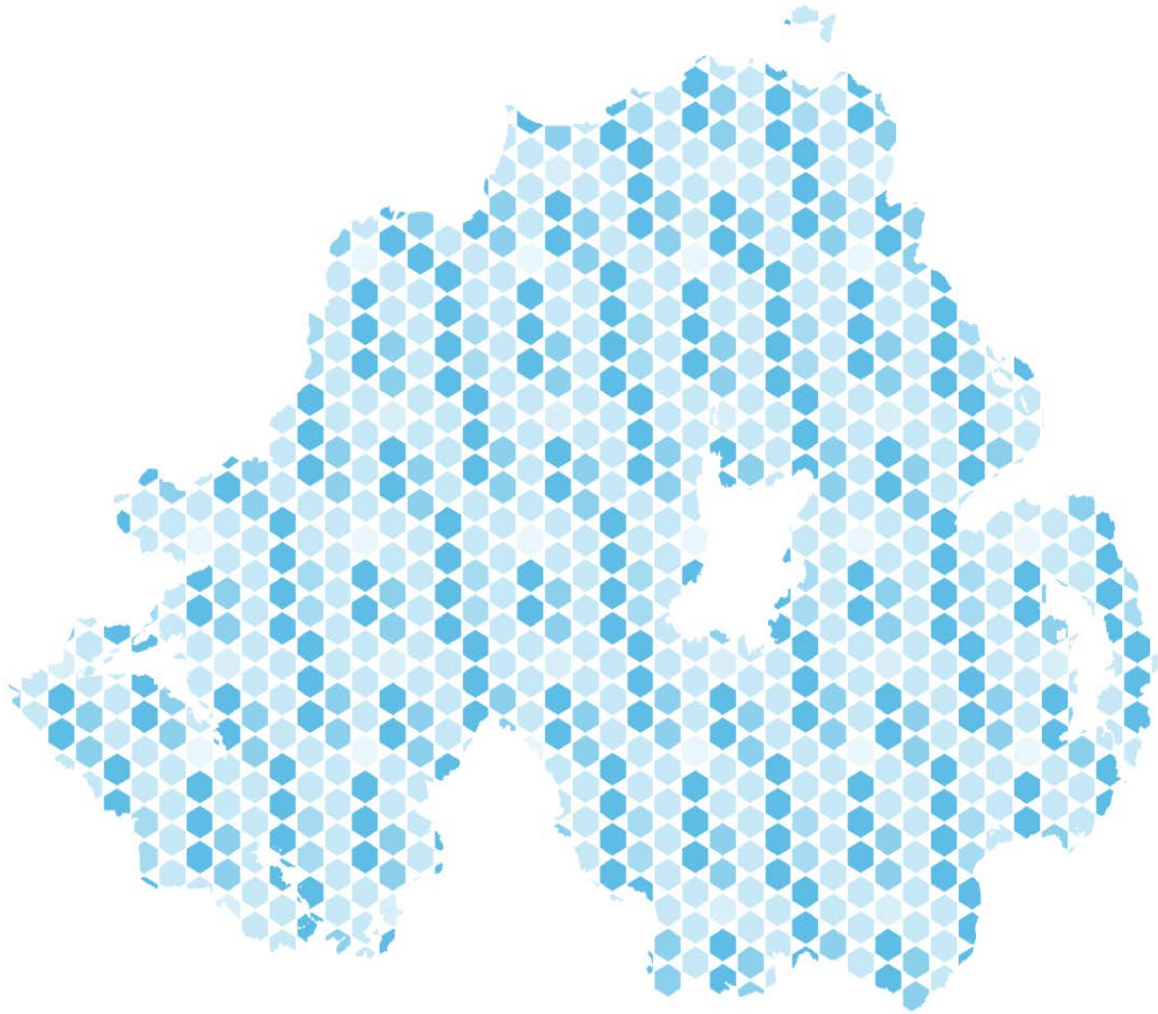


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ben Madigan Preparatory
School, Belfast

Co-educational preparatory school

Report of a Sustaining
Improvement Inspection
in May 2017

eti

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 Ben Madigan Preparatory School, Belfast (162-0028)

Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2013, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Ben Madigan Preparatory School as very good¹. In the interim, there have been changes in senior leadership with the appointment of a new principal and a vice-principal in September 2015. In addition, a new literacy co-ordinator was appointed in September 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 8 and 9 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 quality of the children's learning in literacy, in particular their reading and comprehension skills; and
- to develop further effective collaboration with parents to support their children's learning and progress.

Key findings

- The staff encourage an enjoyment of reading amongst the children who benefit from well planned opportunities to read for research and pleasure. During the inspection, a group of year 7 read fluently displaying understanding of the nuances within the texts and discussed discerningly their reading preferences.
- The school engages meaningfully with parents to support the children's learning. For example, the library team, comprising of parents, teachers and children, has worked effectively to inspire the children's interest in books and reading across a wide range of genre.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect² the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Conclusion

Ben Madigan Preparatory School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.

¹ 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.

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

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