

# Education and Training Inspectorate

## PRIMARY INSPECTION



Oakfield Primary School and Nursery Unit, Carrickfergus,  
County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (301-6257)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection in April 2019



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 Oakfield Primary School and Nursery Unit, Carrickfergus, County Antrim (301-6257)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in April 2016, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Oakfield Primary School and Nursery Unit as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. In the interim, three new co-ordinators have been appointed. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 10 April 2019.

### **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 develop the role of the co-ordinators in leading, monitoring and evaluating the children's learning and outcomes.

### **Key findings**

- The school development plan sets out clearly the systematic and supportive approach to the development of the role of the co-ordinators. This work is underpinned by creative staff development, including joint learning within the curriculum teams and also within the shared education partnership. The co-ordinators collaborate effectively to ensure an agreed and consistent approach to action planning and to monitoring and evaluation. The targets within the action plans focus sharply on improving further the learning experiences for, and the outcomes attained by, the children. The co-ordinators are highly reflective of their work and they lead their areas of responsibility with enthusiasm.
- All of the lessons observed were effective in progressing the children's learning; key features included: effective planning for the needs of all of the children; open-ended questioning which developed the children's thinking and oral responses; and the connected learning opportunities within and across the curriculum. The children engaged confidently and maturely with the wide range of learning activities and resources, and were keen to talk about their learning and achievements. They responded with enthusiasm to practical and problem-solving activities, and worked very well independently and in groups.
- A group of year 6 children spoke positively about their learning experiences, highlighting their enjoyment of shared education and after-school activities. They articulated how, as 'Nursery Buddies', they support the younger children's learning and development.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect the guidance from the Department of Education. A group of year 6 children reported that they are happy and safe at school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.

## **Conclusion**

Oakfield Primary School and Nursery Unit continues to demonstrate the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will continue to monitor how the school sustains improvement.

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