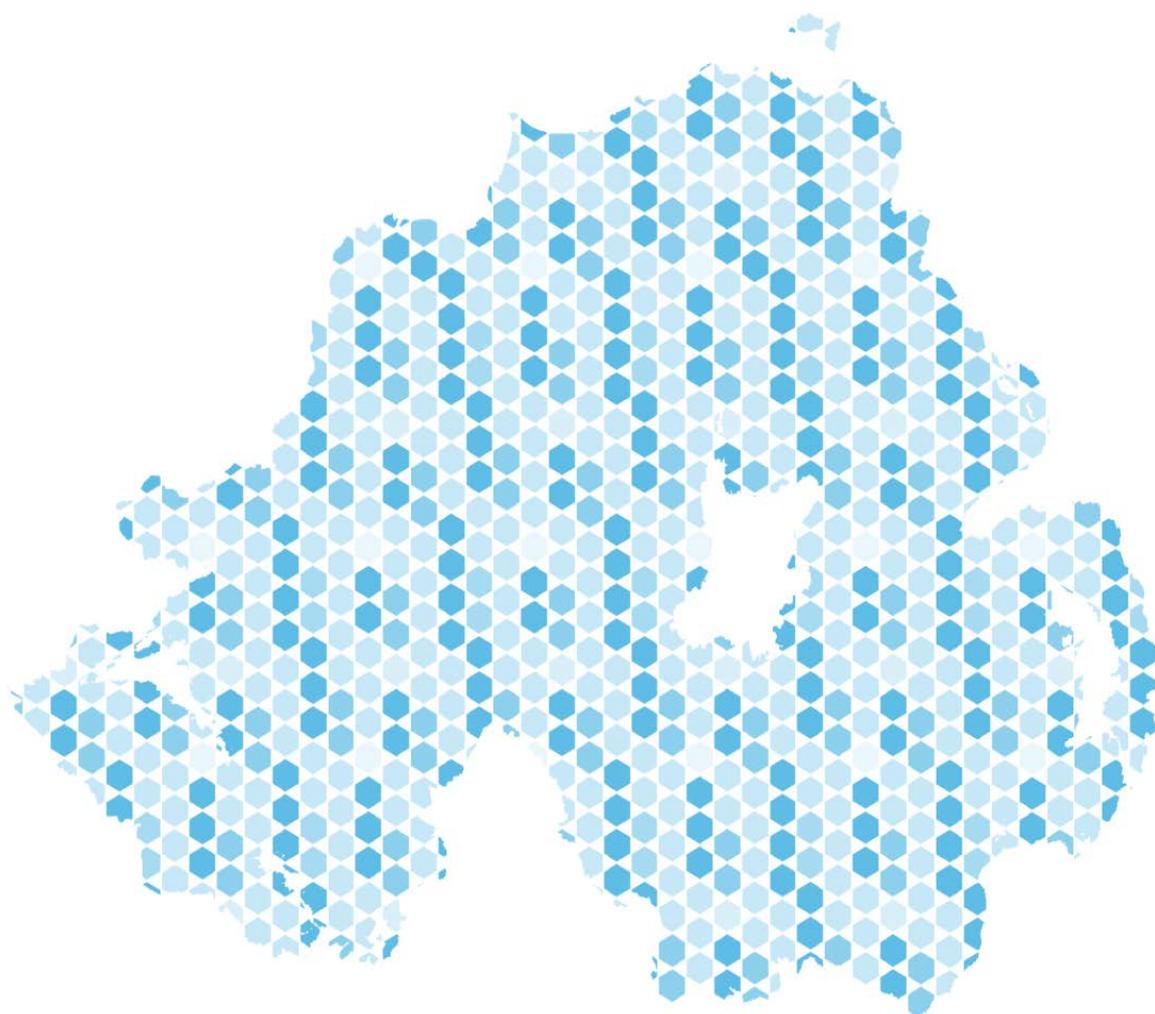


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Colmcille's Primary School,  
Downpatrick

Report of a Sustaining  
Improvement Inspection  
in June 2015

## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection St Colmcille's Primary School, Downpatrick (403-6182)**

In the original inspection held in December 2011, St Colmcille's Primary School was evaluated overall as very good. The school has now had a sustaining improvement inspection which requires the school to demonstrate that it is sustaining improvement, improving provision and raising standards through effective school development planning. Since the last inspection, the school has appointed a new principal and vice-principal, as well as new co-ordinators for literacy and numeracy. Enrolment has risen steadily over this period.

### **Key findings**

There is clear evidence of continuing progress being made in the key priorities set out in the school development plan. The school's recent focus on enhancing the children's understanding and application of mental mathematics strategies, coupled with the introduction of a mathematics recovery programme, has ensured that the children's attainment in numeracy has significantly improved. As a consequence, the children articulate clearly their mathematical thinking and select the most appropriate resources and approaches to make accurate calculations. The school has provided for parents a series of workshops, leaflets and online resources to enable them to support their children in mathematics. The staff and children are increasingly confident in accessing a range of information and communication technology applications to extend and consolidate the children's learning in literacy and numeracy. Through participation in an intensive training programme exploring factors affecting children's literacy development, the staff are using effectively a range of multi-sensory approaches to help raise standards in spelling, reading and writing. All of the lessons observed during the inspection were highly effective in engaging the children in their learning.

There is a collegial culture of self-evaluation leading to improvement within the school, underpinned by regular and rigorous monitoring of the teachers' planning, the work in the children's books, and the teachers' classroom practice. The priorities in the school development plan have been identified through extensive consultation with the children, the parents and the staff, and through robust analysis of the school's internal performance data. Central to the improvement work is the well-conceived staff training programme which is closely linked to the school's priorities for development. At the time of the inspection, the principal and curricular co-ordinators demonstrated clearly that the effective implementation of the action planning is leading to improvement.

### **Conclusion**

St Colmcille's Primary School continues to demonstrate its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2015

This report is supplied in confidence.