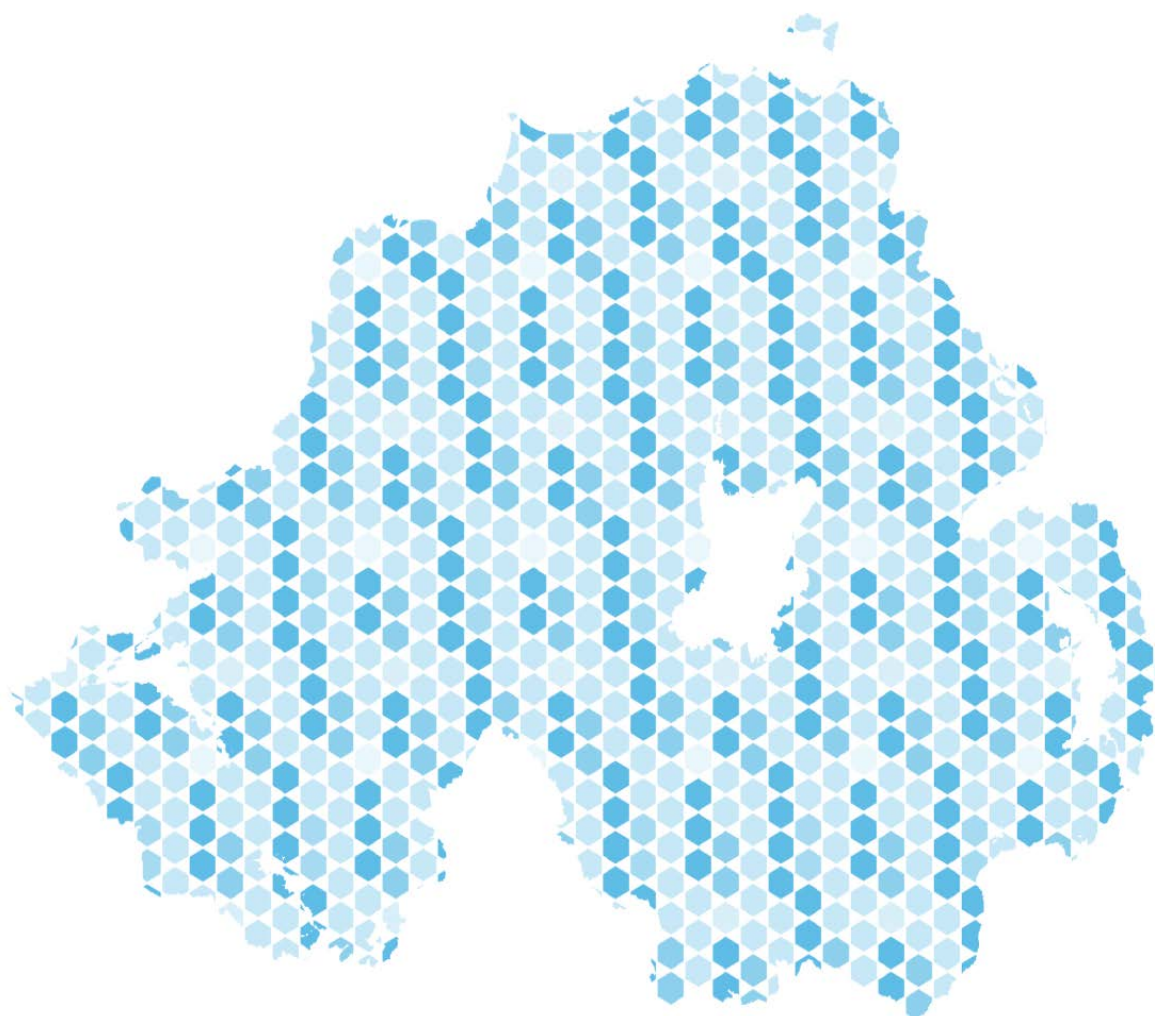


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Limavady Central Primary School,  
Limavady, County Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement  
Inspection (Involving Action Short of  
Strike) in December 2018



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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Limavady Central Primary School, Limavady, County Londonderry (201-6426)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in May 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Limavady Central Primary School as very good<sup>1</sup>. In the interim: the number of children enrolled in the school has declined by fourteen percent; a new principal has subsequently been appointed; and, a shared education partnership between four local schools has been established. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 10 December 2018.

Four of the teaching unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute. This includes non-co-operation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal and vice-principal/designated teacher for child protection co-operated with the inspectors in relation to their safeguarding responsibilities. The ETI has a statutory duty to monitor, inspect and report on the quality of education under Article 102 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Therefore, the inspection proceeded and the following evaluations are based on the evidence as made available at the time of the inspection.

## **Focus of the inspection**

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to focus on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

## **Key findings**

- A group of year 6 children report that they have very good opportunities to express choices in their learning both in the classroom and in the well-developed outdoor play area. They spoke, in particular, about the positive experiences they have in their art curriculum and about their enjoyment of reading.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the lines of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

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<sup>1</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The children in year 6, who spoke to the inspectors, reported that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

## **Conclusion**

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the staff, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

### **Health and Safety**

- The school has raised the need for secure boundary fencing and access arrangements to the main entrance with the relevant authorities; this work needs to proceed as a matter of urgency.

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