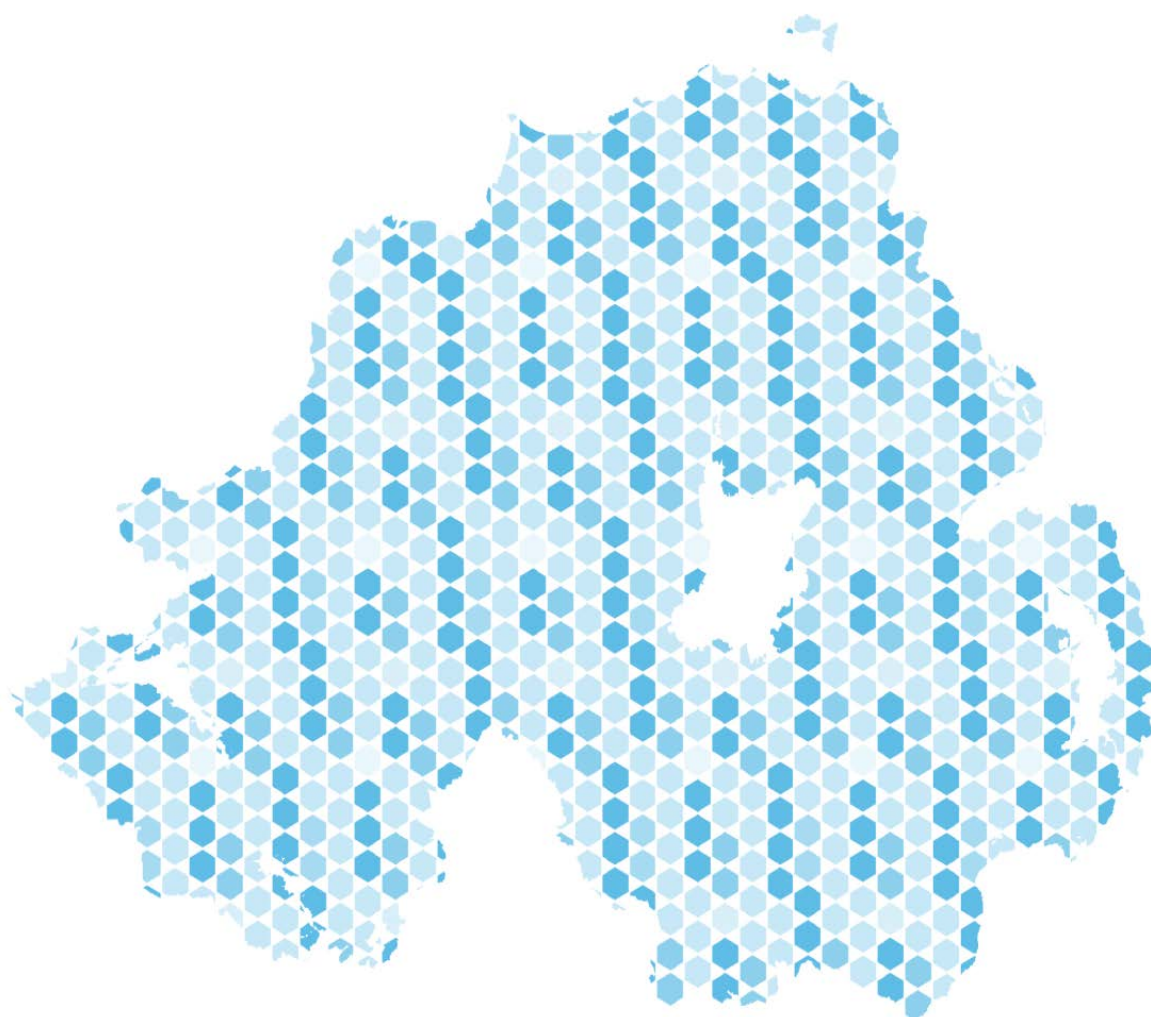


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Eugene's Primary School and
Nursery Unit, Derry

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Eugene's Primary School and Nursery Unit, Derry (203-6555)

Introduction

The previous inspection in March 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Eugene's Primary School and Nursery Unit as very good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 12 November 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 co-operated regarding his 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

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.
- It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

Safeguarding

- Based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the arrangements for safeguarding children are unsatisfactory².

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.

² The Department of Education will seek assurance from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

- The areas which need to be improved urgently include:
 - to ensure all policies are in line with the current guidance from the Department of Education (DE);
 - to ensure all training for governors is up-to-date;
 - to ensure appropriate risk assessments are completed; and
 - the need to review the staff's code of conduct policy.

In discussions with the inspector, the year 6 children reported that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

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 and safeguarding being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

The ETI will return to the school within six weeks to evaluate and report on the progress in addressing the unsatisfactory arrangements for safeguarding.

Health and Safety

1. A lack of control over access to the school site represents a potential risk to the children's and staff safety. The school has raised this matter with the relevant authorities.

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