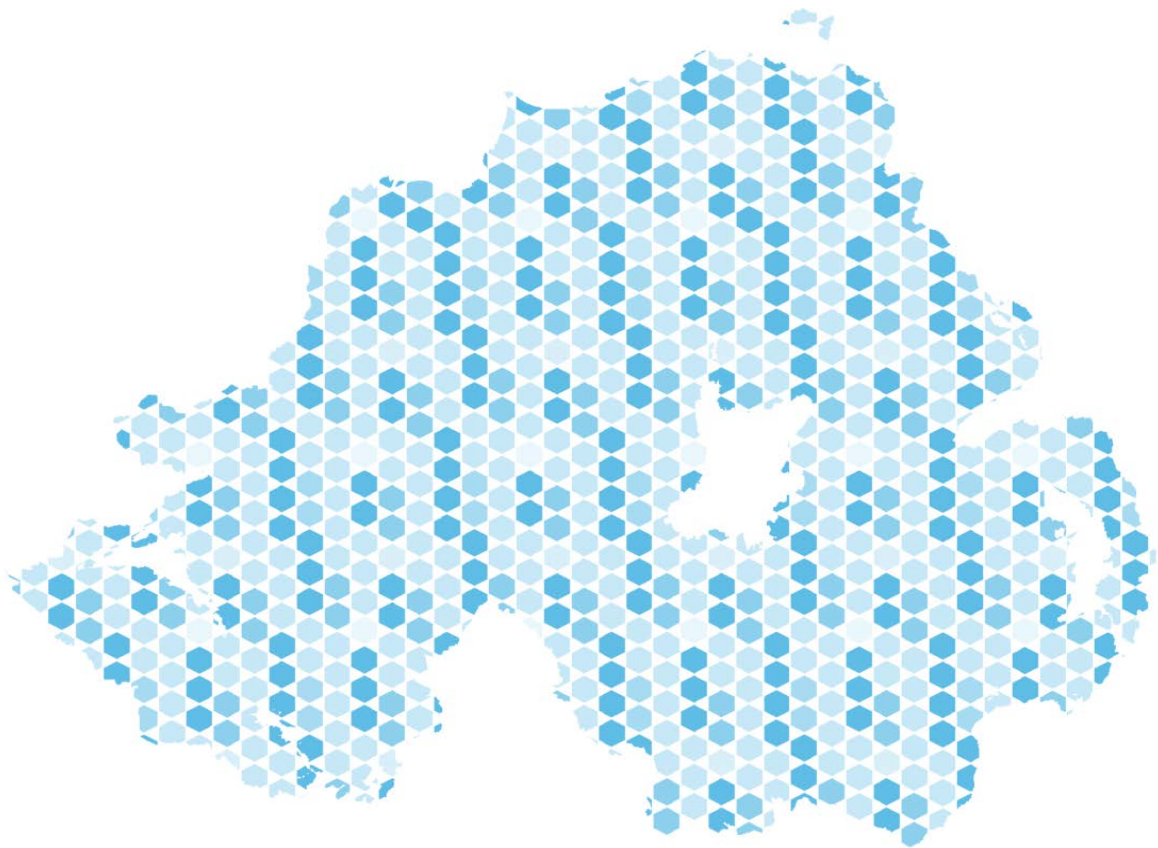


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Clare's Abbey Primary School,
Newry, County Down

Catholic Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Baseline Monitoring
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in March 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Baseline Monitoring Inspection of St Clare's Abbey Primary School, Newry, County Down (503-6634)

Introduction

The aim of the Baseline Monitoring Inspection is to evaluate the extent to which the leadership and management has set up effective self-evaluation processes to inform the development planning process in order to bring about improvement. The outcome of the inspection will inform future inspection activity.

St Clare's Abbey Primary School was opened in September 2014 as a result of a joint development proposal to cease provision at St Colman's Abbey Boys' Primary School and St Clare's Convent Primary School for Girls, in conjunction with the creation of a co-educational new school.

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 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.

The ETI met with representatives of the governors, groups of children from key stage (KS) 2, a group of parents and the teaching support staff.

Focus of the inspection

During the inspection, lines of enquiry were selected from the priorities identified in the school development plan; the school was asked to demonstrate how the actions taken have led to improvement for the pupils. The two key lines of enquiry focused on the school's actions to:

- create a culture, ethos and identity which promotes effectively the care and welfare of the school community; and
- develop the information and communication technology (ICT) skills of the children and enhance their e-safety awareness.

Key findings

- The strategic leadership of those who led the amalgamation was highly effective. The new school ethos and identity and, the commitment to the care and welfare of the school community have been created and implemented successfully as evident in the pride and commitment expressed by the governors, parents, children and teaching support staff.
- The initial school development plan has been informed by robust self-evaluation and extensive involvement of all stakeholders.

- The children take on significant leadership roles which impacts positively on their confidence and self-esteem. An innovative children's 'Digital Leaders' team has been established in KS 2 to support and promote the use of ICT across all year groups and has been recognised by external accreditation. In the meetings with the KS 2 'Digital Leaders' and a group of the year 7 children, they articulated clearly their understanding of the use of a range of digital tools across the curriculum.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

The children reported that they feel safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned 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 teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the children. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2017

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk