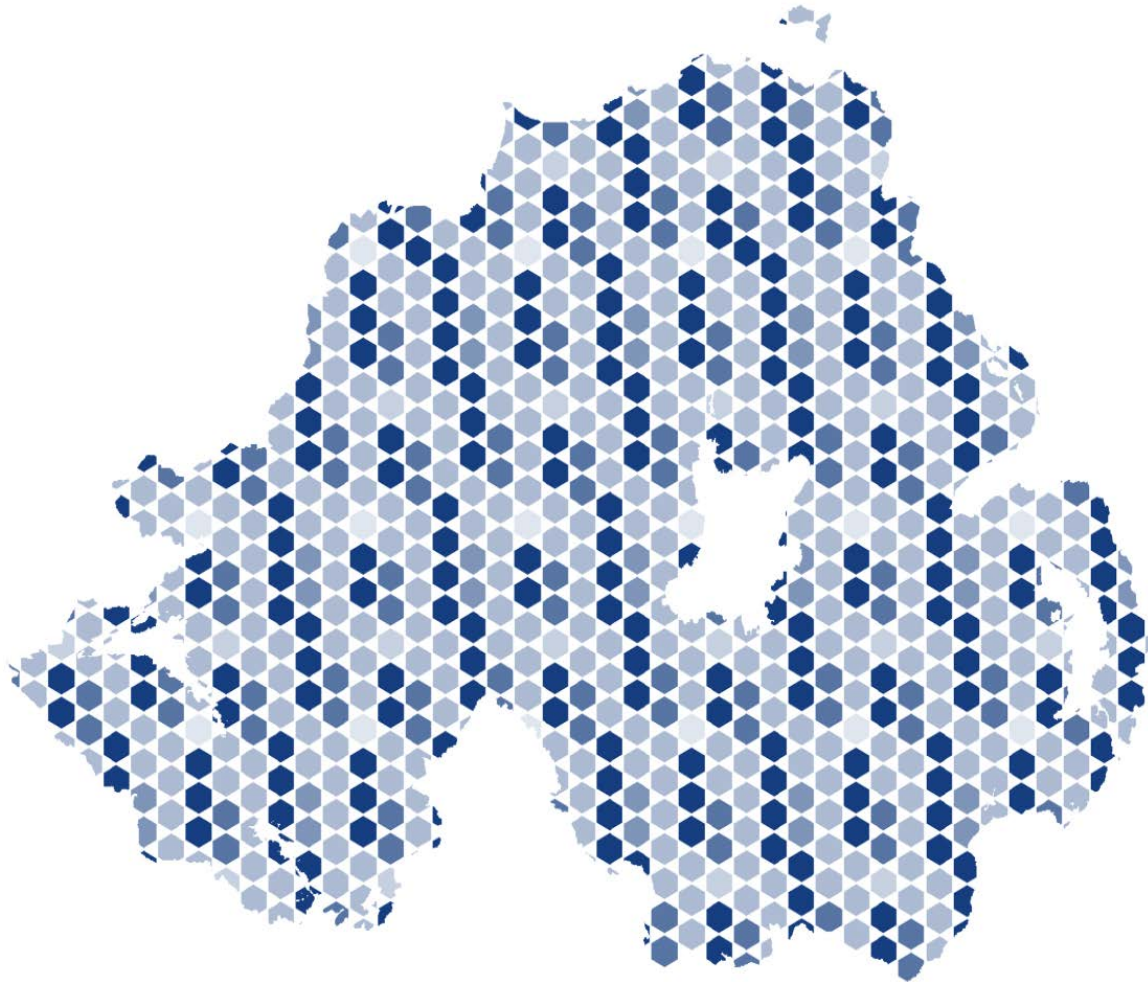


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Bangor Academy and Sixth
Form College, County Down

Controlled, co-educational non-selective 11-18 school

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
(Involving Action Short of Strike)
in April 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF BANGOR ACADEMY AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE, COUNTY DOWN, BT20 4TB (421-0296)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College in September 2016¹ which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement identified in the inspection included the need to:

- address the variation in the standards attained by the pupils;
- raise the standards in English, and the overall provision in mathematics and technology and design; and
- disseminate the most effective practice in learning and teaching in order to provide the pupils with learning experiences across the curriculum which are matched more closely to their needs, abilities and aspirations.

The school's action plans focused on the areas for improvement identified at the initial inspection.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up inspection visit (IFuV) in May 2017 which was impacted by action short of strike. The progress being made in the areas for improvement was discussed with the school during the IFuV. A follow-up inspection was conducted in April 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 ETI. Prior to the follow-up inspection, the school informed the ETI that there would be no co-operation 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 follow-up inspection proceeded and the following evaluations are based on the evidence as made available at the time of the follow-up inspection.

Views of parents and staff

As a result of the action short of strike, the re-issued online questionnaire information was not distributed to parents and staff. Therefore it is not possible to report on the views of parents and staff.

Key Findings

Owing to action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate the extent to which the following areas for improvement, identified at the initial inspection, have been addressed; namely the need to:

- address the variation in the standards attained by the pupils;
- raise the standards in English, and the overall provision in mathematics and technology and design; and

¹<https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/post-primary-inspection-bangor-academy-and-sixth-form-college-county-down-421-0296.pdf>

- disseminate the most effective practice in learning and teaching in order to provide the pupils with learning experiences across the curriculum which are matched more closely to their needs, abilities and aspirations.

Consequently, there remains a need for Bangor Academy and Sixth Form College to address the important areas for improvement.

Conclusion

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

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