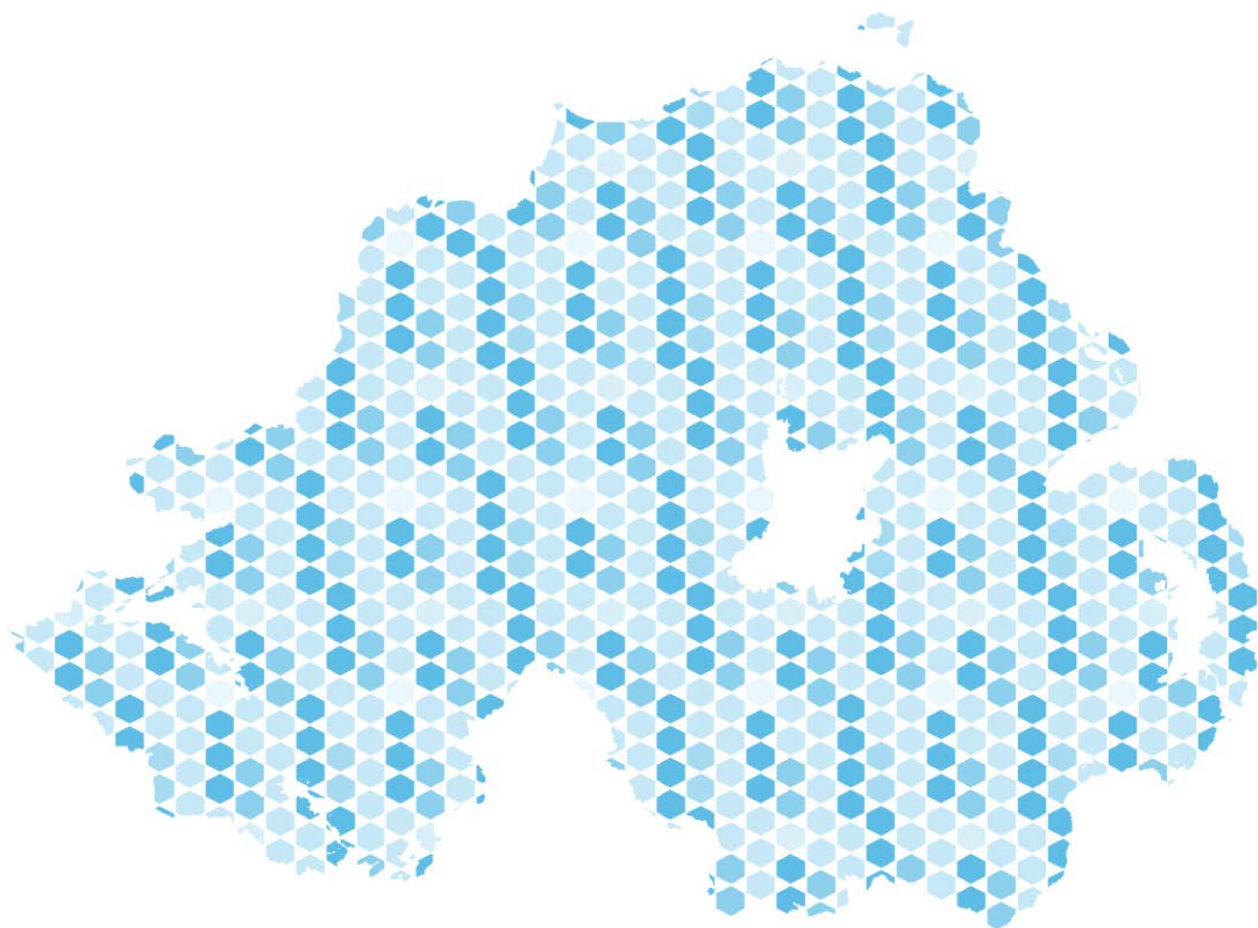


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Gaelscoil an Lonnáin, Belfast

Irish-medium, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF GAELSCOIL AN LONNÁIN, BELFAST, BT12 4PD (104-6672)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection of Gaelscoil an Lonnáin in March 2017¹, which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement included the need to:

- develop further play-based learning in the foundation stage;
- review whole-school planning to ensure a more rigorous and consistent approach to learning and teaching in all aspects of literacy; and
- develop a more robust process for monitoring and evaluating the children's learning experiences and attainments throughout the school in order to ensure progression and raise standards.

In October 2017, the Department of Education's (DE) Standards and Improvement Team requested that the school make adjustments to improve the quality of the action plans, in light of the feedback given by the ETI, and for the school to re-submit the action plans. At the time of the second follow-up inspection in June 2018, the revised action plans have not yet been formally submitted. The school's development plan was also not available.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in October 2017 and a second follow-up inspection in June 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 inspection, the school informed the ETI that none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The ETI have 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.

In the interval since the first follow-up inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- there has been a period of instability in relation to staffing;
- the staff have visited other schools, with the support of the Education Authority (EA), to observe effective practice in play-based learning;
- the use of a range of data has been developed to help identify and address underachievement; and
- the staff have availed of a range of capacity building opportunities.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/follow-inspection-gaelscoil-lonnain-belfast-0>

Key findings

Owing to action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate the areas for improvement. The areas for improvement remain as the need to:

- develop further play-based learning in the foundation stage;
- review whole-school planning to ensure a more rigorous and consistent approach to learning and teaching in all aspects of literacy; and
- develop a more robust process for monitoring and evaluating the children's learning experiences and attainments throughout the school in order to ensure progression and raise standards.

Consequently, there remains a need for Gaelscoil an Lonnáin to address important areas for improvement.²

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. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

² The Department of Education will seek assurance from the Education Authority that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

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