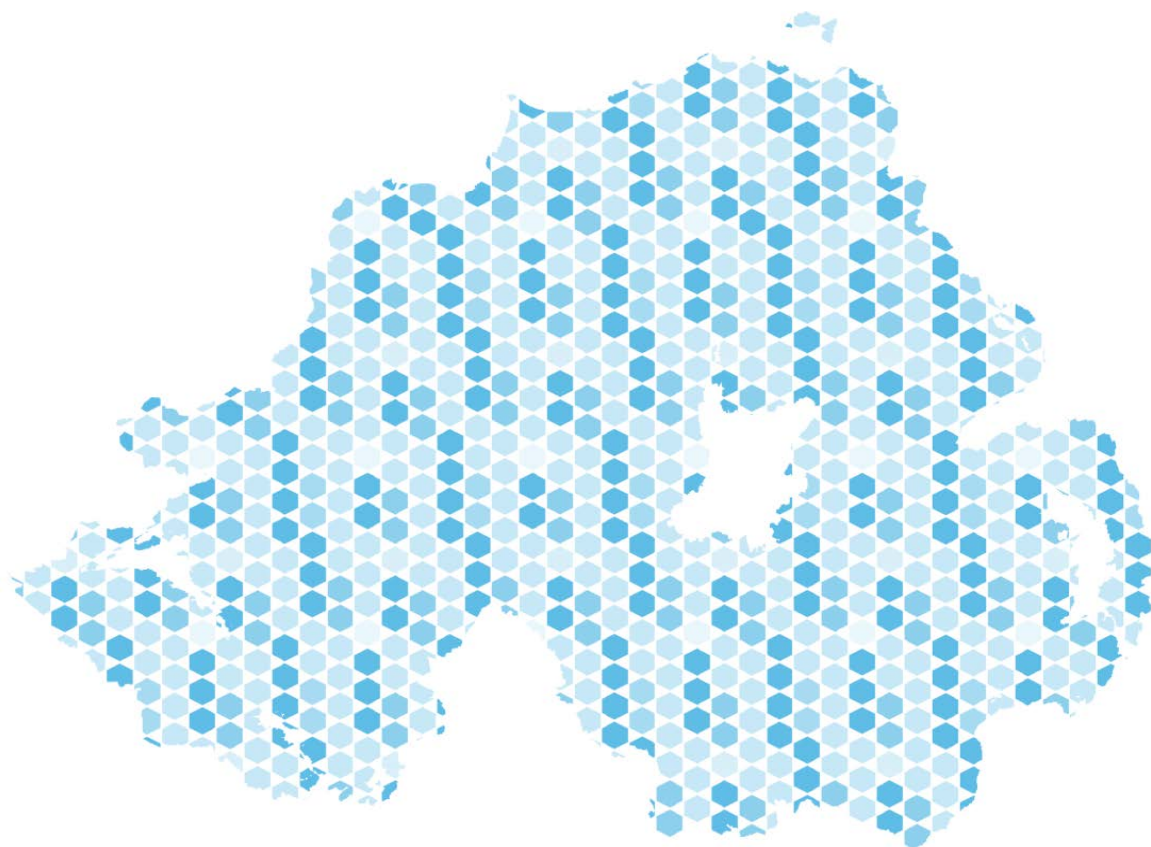


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Ballynahinch Primary School,
Ballynahinch, County Down

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Monitoring Inspection of Ballynahinch Primary School, County Down (401-1567)

Introduction

The aim of the Monitoring Inspection is to evaluate the extent to which the leadership and management uses self-evaluation effectively to inform the development planning process to bring about improvement. The outcome of the inspection will inform future inspection activity.

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, including the principal, 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.

Focus of the inspection

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to focus on evaluating action to promote improvement and its impact on learning and teaching and outcomes for learners;
- lines of inquiry were not selected from the development plan priorities; and
- the school did not demonstrate if and how the actions taken have led to improvement for the learners.

Key findings

- Due to the non-participation of the teachers and principal in the inspection process, no key findings can be reported.

Safeguarding

- During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements are in place for safeguarding learners.

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 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 arrangements for safeguarding.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF BALLYNAHINCH PRIMARY SCHOOL (401-1567) IN APRIL 2017

SAFEGUARDING

The ETI returned to the school on 8 June 2017 to report on arrangements for safeguarding. The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to provide evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding. Owing to action short of strike, the school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements were in place at the time of the inspection on 6 April 2017. Since the initial inspection, a new principal has taken up post.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education. The following planned actions need to be completed:

- completion of safeguarding training for the newly-appointed principal;
- review of the anti-bullying and behaviour policies to reflect recent guidance from the Department of Education¹; and
- development and ratification of a relationship and sexuality education policy.

In discussion with inspectors, a group of children from year 6 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.

¹ Including from the Northern Ireland Anti-bullying Forum

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