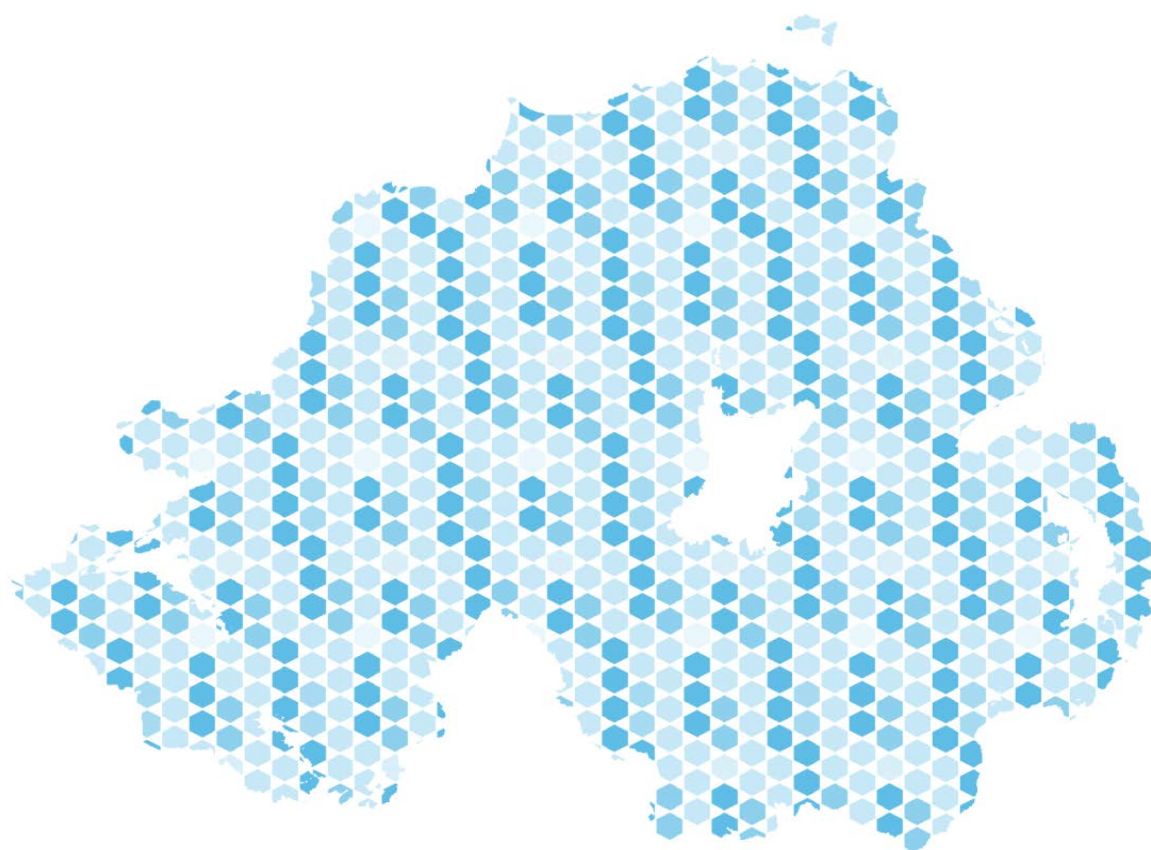


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Campbell College Junior
School, Belfast

Preparatory Department

Report of a Monitoring Inspection
(Involving Action Short of Strike)
in June 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 Campbell College Junior School, Belfast (162-0020)

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 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

The inspection focused on evaluating action to promote improvement and its impact on learning and teaching and outcomes for learners. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

During the inspection, lines of inquiry were selected from the development plan priorities; the school was asked to demonstrate if and how the actions taken have led to improvement for the learners. The lines of inquiry focused on the school's actions to:

- improve the quality of the school development planning process with more distributed leadership and effective self-evaluation processes; and
- improve the quality of the planning for literacy and raise the standards of the children's writing skills.

Key findings

- The school development plan is of a good quality and the key priorities have been identified and informed through appropriate consultation with children, staff and parents. The recently established Campbellian Parents' Forum is used well to obtain the views and opinions of the parents. A core leadership team has been established along with curricular teams for key areas of learning and a new model of governance for the Junior School provides more efficient communication and decision-making structures.
- The informative weekly newsletters record a wide range of interesting literacy activities across all classes which are linked well to the World Around Us topics; they provide opportunities for the children to write for a range of audiences and purposes.

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the line of inquiry regarding the children's writing skills.

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, and the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the children. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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