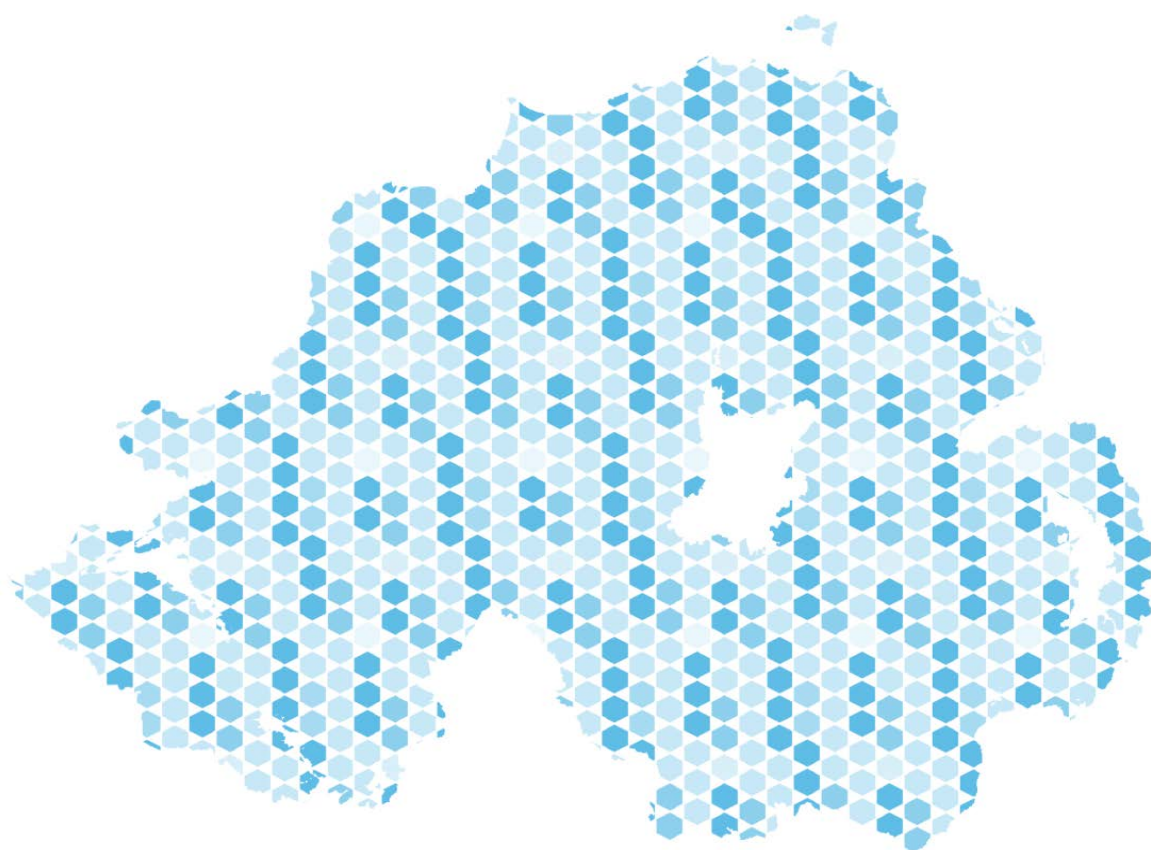


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Cortamlet Primary School,  
Newry, County Down

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Monitoring Inspection  
(Involving Action Short of Strike)  
in January 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 Cortamlet Primary School, Newry, County Down (501-1175)**

### **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.

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:

- address potential underachievement; and
- improve the provision for literacy, particularly through the development of writing.

The ETI was unable to observe lessons to evaluate the quality of learning and teaching.

### **Key findings**

- The school has placed a high priority on enabling all children to achieve their potential; data is being used effectively to identify potential underachievement, planning is developing well and appropriate interventions are being put in place to support individual and groups of children.
- Writing is being developed well across the school; the available evidence indicates that the provision is improving the quality and breadth of the children's learning experiences and is enabling the children to make progress across the writing genres. The outworking of the action plans is monitored closely and the work to develop writing has resulted in the children achieving better standards in this aspect of their literacy.
- It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff. The school's enrolment is currently 99 children.

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

- the impact of the improvement work on the quality of learning and teaching and the children's standards.

### **Safeguarding**

During the monitoring inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. 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 staff, 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](http://www.etini.gov.uk)