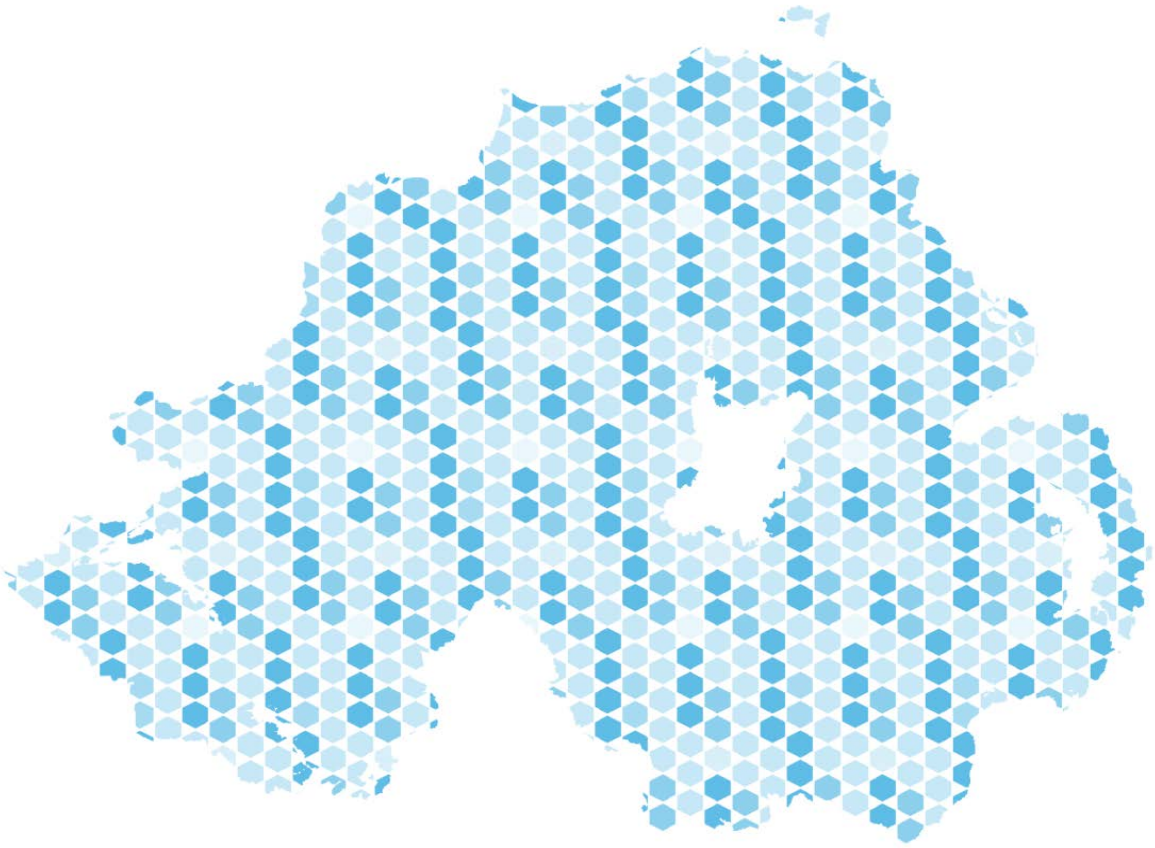
PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training Inspectorate

Friends' Preparatory Department, Friends' School, Lisburn, County Antrim

Voluntary, co-educational

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

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
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CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE
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Monitoring Inspection of Friend's Preparatory Department, Friend's School, Lisburn (462-0050)

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 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 all of the teachers and the head of the preparatory department would not 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

A representative of the governors and principal met with the ETI on 16 January. However, owing to the preparatory department's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to evaluate 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 preparatory department 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 head of the preparatory department and teachers in the inspection process, no key findings can be reported.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the preparatory department 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 head of the preparatory department 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 preparatory department is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

The ETI will return to the preparatory department within six weeks to evaluate and report on the arrangements for safeguarding.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE MONITORING INSPECTION OF FRIENDS' PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT, FRIENDS' SCHOOL, IN JANUARY 2017

The ETI returned to the school on 6 March 2017 to monitor and 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 16 January 2017.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

In discussion, the children reported that they feel safe and cared for in the school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being.

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