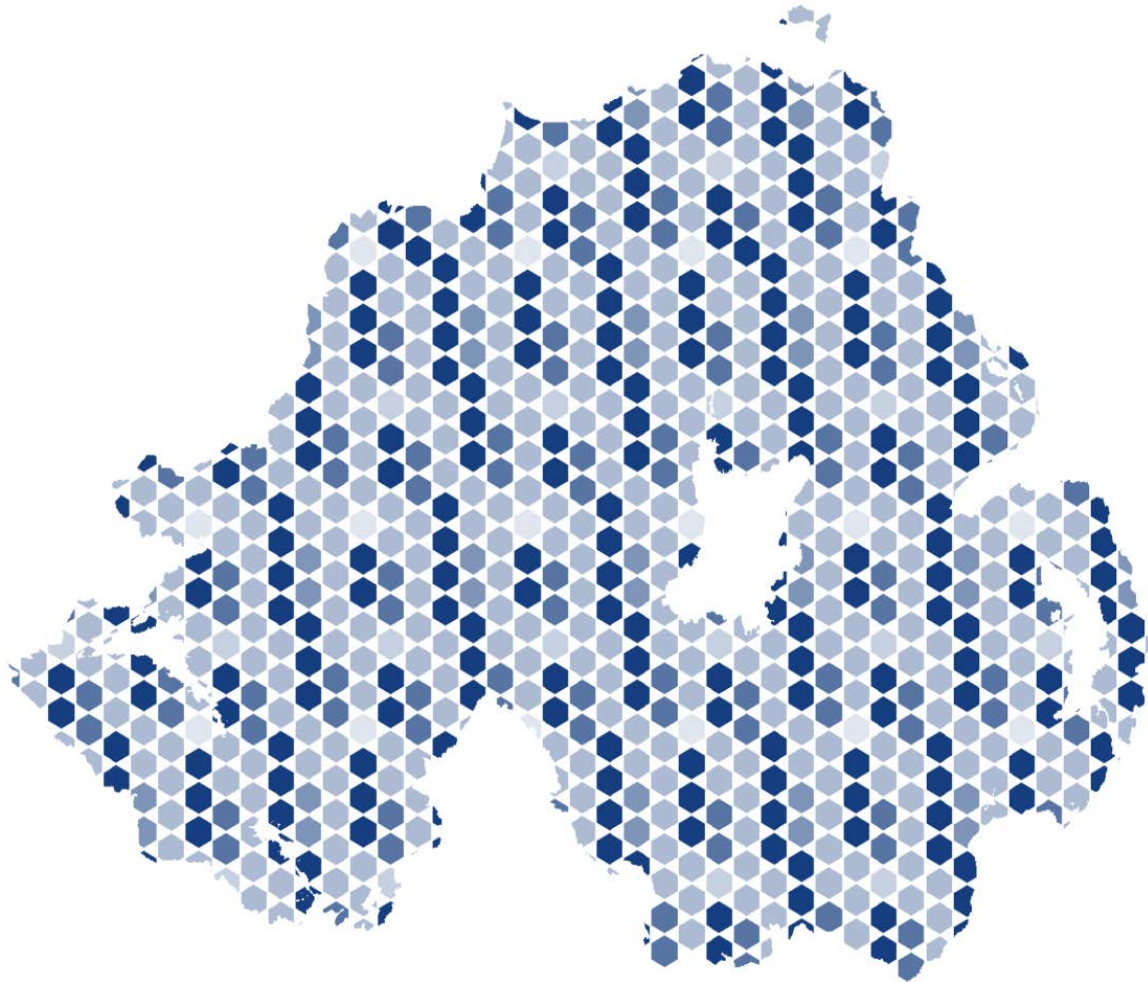


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Newry High School,
County Down

Controlled, co-educational non-selective school

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Monitoring Inspection of Newry High School, County Down (521-0186)

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 school 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 most of the teachers 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

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

During the inspection, lines of enquiry were selected from the priorities identified in the school development plan; the school was asked to demonstrate how the actions taken have led to improvement for the pupils.

The two key lines of enquiry focused on the school's actions to:

- develop further the curriculum to meet better the needs, interests and abilities of the pupils; and
- provide consistently high quality learning experiences for the pupils through the sharing and dissemination of best practice leading to improvement.

Key findings

- There is evidence of ongoing improvement work in the school; the impact of this work is informed to good effect through an appropriate self-evaluation process.
- The school has developed a more flexible curriculum at key stages 3 and 4 to meet better the aspirations and career interests of the pupils. In order to advance this work further, the curriculum provision at post-16 needs to be reviewed and modified accordingly.
- The teachers have developed further a shared understanding of high quality teaching and learning, through the dissemination of good practice at departmental level. Due to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate the impact of this work.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding pupils are in place which 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 all of 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 pupils. This will be reflected in future inspection arrangements.

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