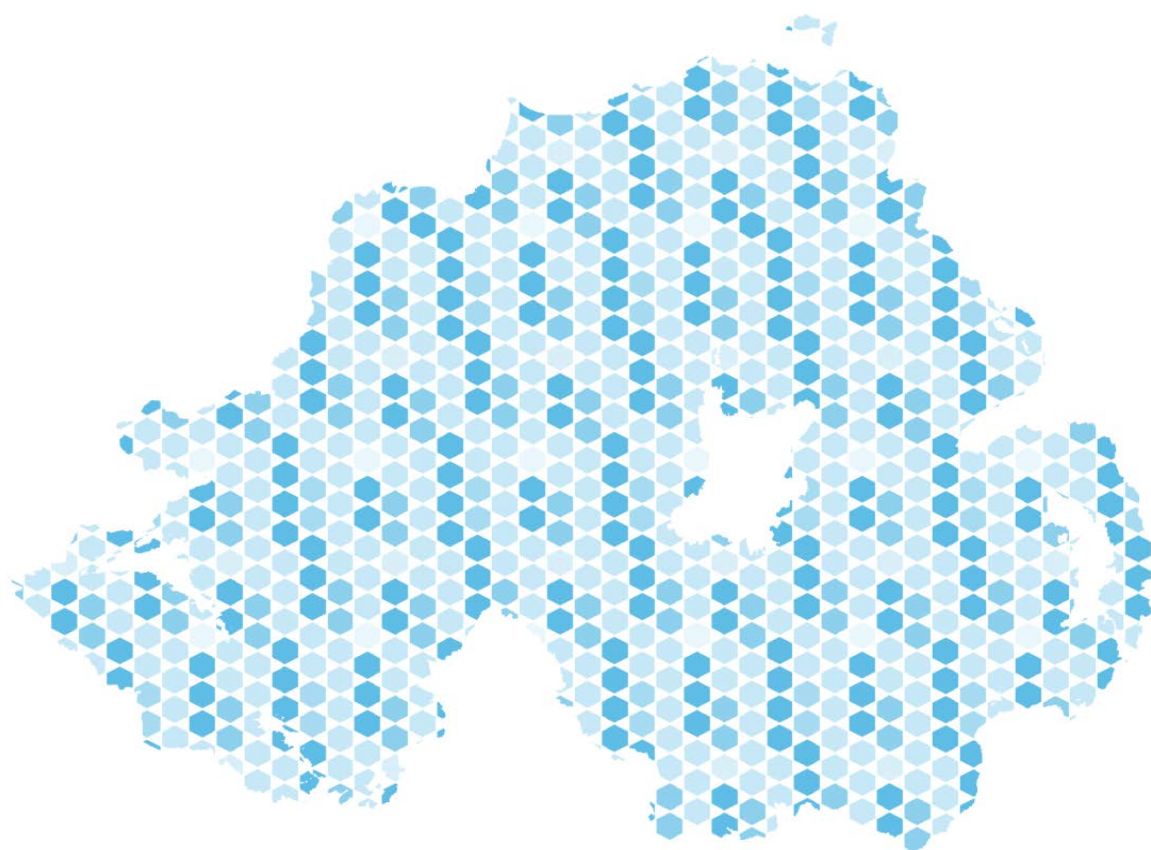


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary
School, Greencastle, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Monitoring Inspection
(Involving Action Short of Strike)
in February 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 Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Greencastle, Omagh, County Tyrone (203-6415)

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 and 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

The ETI reviewed safeguarding documentation, attended a whole-school assembly on e-safety and met with a group of children from year 6 to ascertain their knowledge and understanding of safeguarding practices in the school and how the staff ensure their health and well-being.

Owing to the non-participation of the teachers and the principal, no further key findings can be reported.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The group of children from year 6 report that they feel happy and safe in school and know who to contact if they have any concerns about their well-being.

However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully, or discuss with staff, 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 principal and teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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