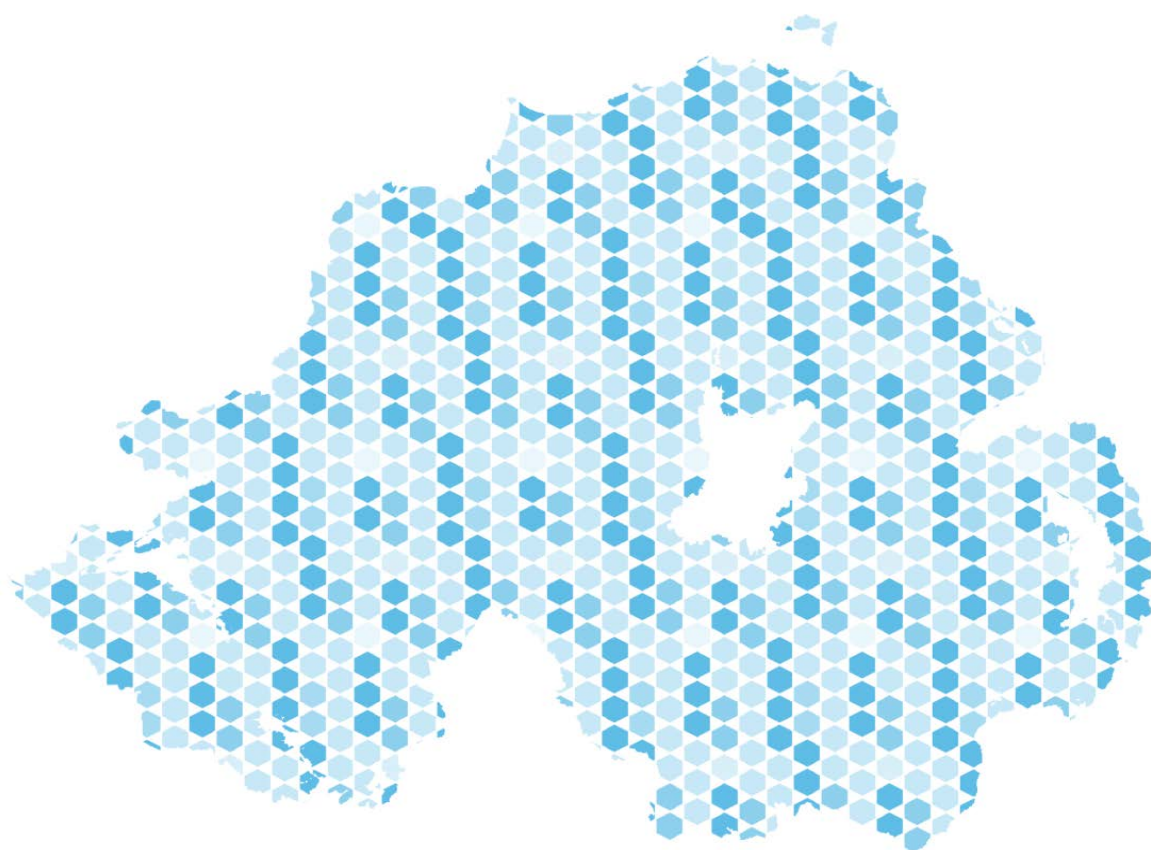


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Portglenone Primary School,
Portglenone, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

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



Monitoring Inspection of Portglenone Primary School, Portglenone, County Antrim (301-6440)

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 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

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 finding

The following finding is based on a review of the school development plan and discussion with the principal.

- The school development planning process includes wide consultation with all stakeholders, is informed by the use of qualitative and quantitative data and identifies priorities for improvement.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. In discussion with the inspector, a group of children from years six and seven spoke very positively about their learning experiences, the wide range of after-school activities and the support they receive from the staff. The children report that they feel safe and happy in school and that they know what to do if they have concerns about their wellbeing. 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.

Accommodation

1. Toilet facilities for the children are inadequate.
2. The uneven surface area at the front of the school poses health and safety risks for children and staff, and limits outdoor play opportunities.

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