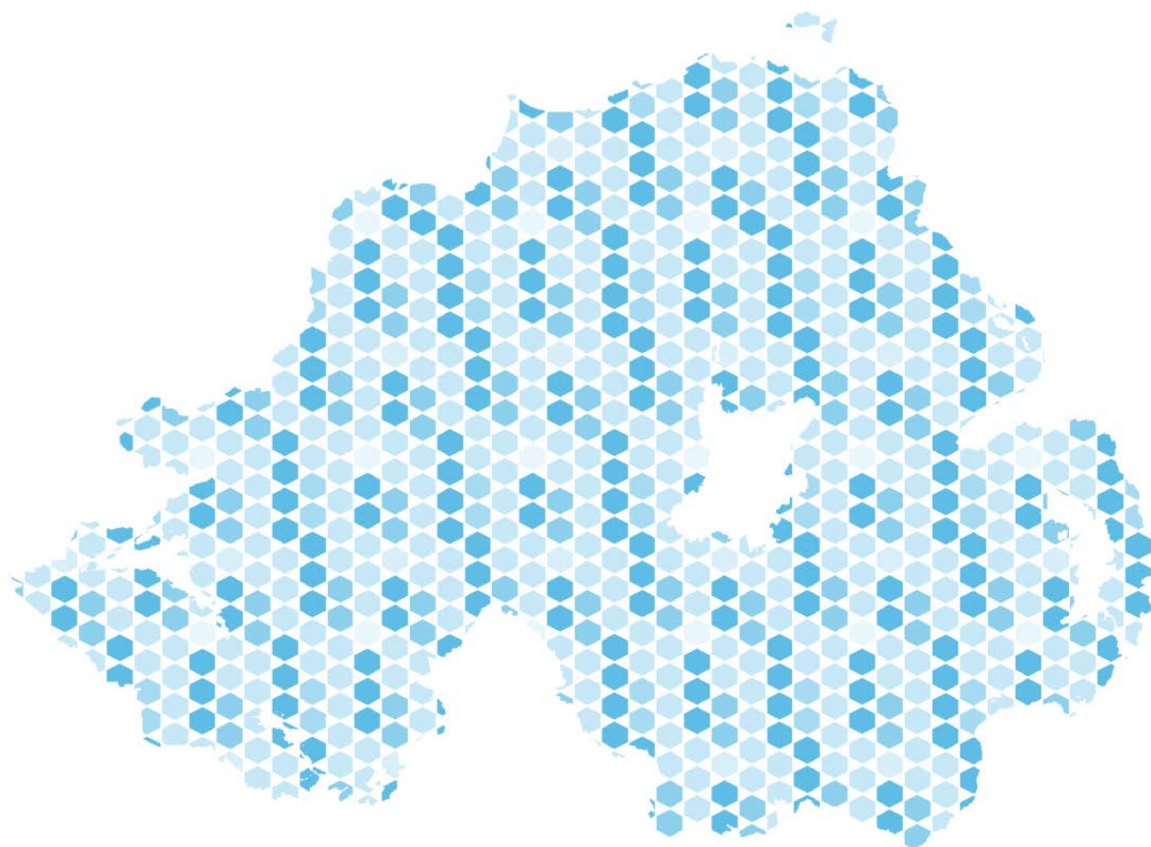


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Anne's Primary School, Corkey,
Ballymena, County Antrim

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 St Anne's Primary School, Corkey, Ballymena (303-089)

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 all of the staff including the principal 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.

The new principal was appointed in October 2016.

Focus of the inspection

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- lines of inquiry were not selected from the development plan priorities;
- the inspection was unable to evaluate the actions to promote improvement and their impact on learning and teaching and outcomes for children; and
- the school was unable to demonstrate if and how the actions taken have led to improvement for the children.

Key findings

- The school development plan (SDP) is well-conceived and coherent; it is informed by the appropriate consultation with all key stakeholders and the effective use of qualitative and quantitative data. The SDP identifies priorities which are supported by clear action plans that focus on continuous improvement in the learning experiences for, and the outcomes achieved by, the children.
- 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.

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 reported that they feel safe and happy in school and know what to do if they have any 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.

Work on the following aspect is underway and needs to be completed:

- updating the positive behaviour policy.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the staff the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, and 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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