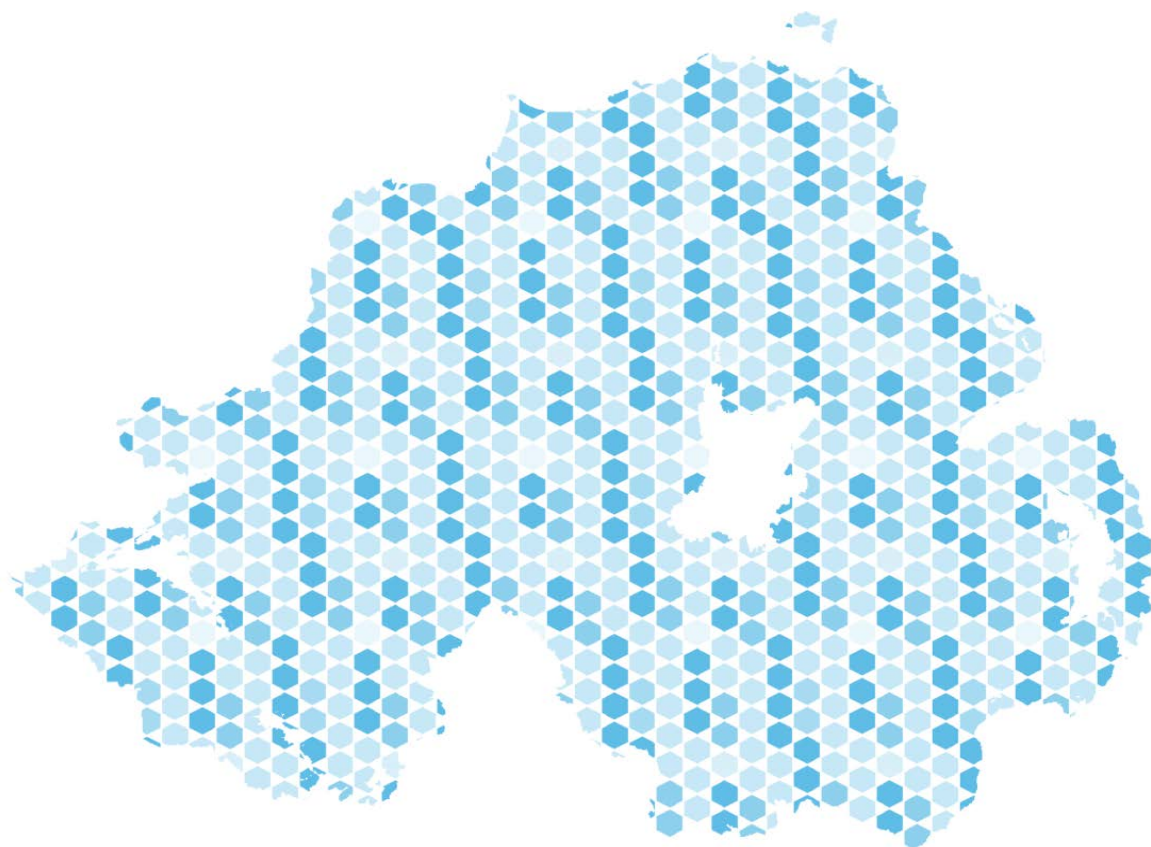


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Mary's Primary School,  
Derrymore, Craigavon,  
County Armagh

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 Mary's Primary School, Derrymore, County Armagh (503-6006)**

### **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 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 for learners.

During the inspection, lines of inquiry were selected from the development plan priorities; the school was asked to demonstrate if and how the actions taken have led to improvement for the learners. The lines of inquiry focused on the school's actions to:

- use effectively a range of monitoring and assessment information to inform planning and practice for literacy; and
- develop the provision for guided reading.

### **Key findings**

- The provision for literacy is very well planned and monitored closely through a wide range of agreed strategies including classroom observations, scrutiny of all planning and the tracking of the progress of individual children. The resulting assessments are analysed skilfully and used very effectively to identify any underachievement and provide associated helpful interventions, and to inform planning for learning by teachers.
- Detailed, well-paced action plans guide the development of reading by staff, and there is very comprehensive monitoring and analysis of the children's progress. The school's extensive evidence demonstrates that all of the children are making good progress in developing their reading skills.

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the impact of the revised practice on the quality of the learning and teaching, and the outcomes for children.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The children reported that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. 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 a strike being taken by 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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