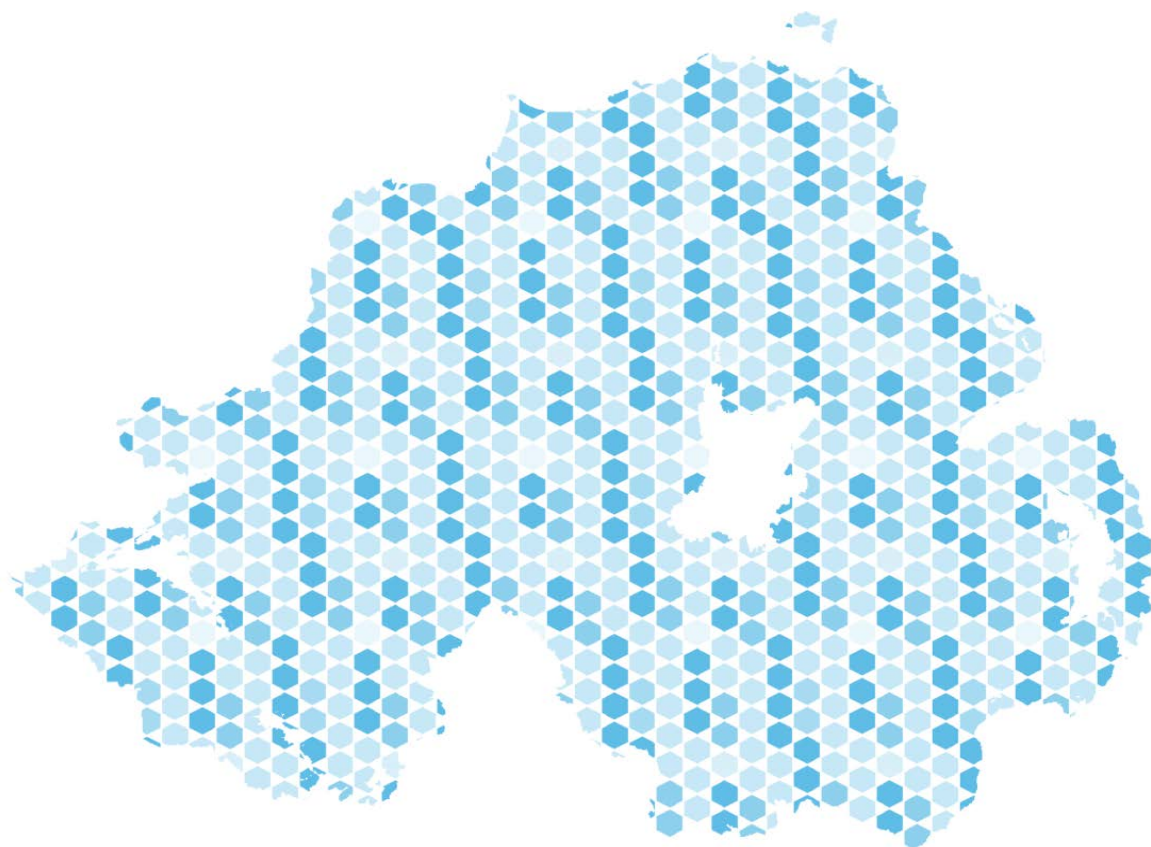


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Michael's Primary School,
Clady, County Armagh

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Monitoring Inspection
(Involving Action Short of Strike)
in March 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 Michael's Primary School, Clady, County Armagh (503-1166)

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 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

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:

- develop further the provision for information and communication technology (ICT); and
- improve the children's outcomes in literacy through more effective identification of, and action to address, potential underachievement.

Key findings

- The school is improving its provision for ICT through upskilling staff, planning for progression across the 5 'E's¹ and acquiring additional resources.
- Effective use is being made of performance data to identify areas for development in literacy at whole school, class and individual child level. Potential underachievement by individual children is being identified and addressed and appropriate plans are in place to monitor and evaluate the impact of this work.

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

- the impact of the improvement work on the quality of learning and teaching and the children's outcomes.

¹ The requirements for Using ICT in the Levels of Progression are set out under the headings Explore, Express, Exchange, Evaluate and Exhibit.

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. The school's enrolment is currently 49 children.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. A group of children from key stage 2 reported that they feel safe and secure in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their wellbeing. 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.

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