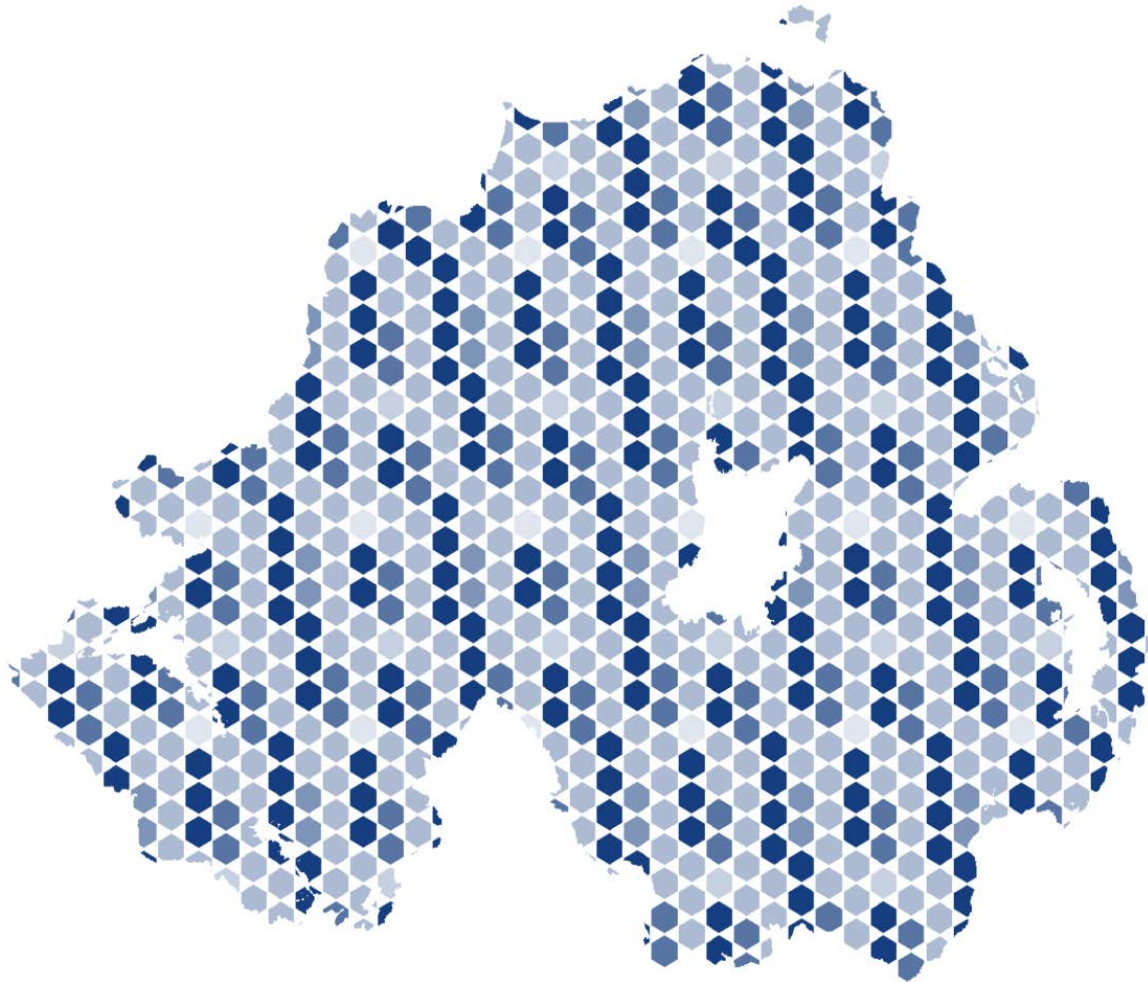


# POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Patrick's College, Dungiven,  
County Londonderry

Maintained, co-educational, non-selective 11-18 school

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

CUSTOMER  
SERVICE  
EXCELLENCE



## **Monitoring Inspection of St Patrick's College, Dungiven (223-0144)**

### **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 in order to bring about improvement. The outcome of the inspection will inform future inspection activity.

Since the last inspection, the school has undergone significant changes in the senior leadership, including the appointment of a new principal.

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 only the principal would be co-operating with the inspectors. The ETI have 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 attained by the pupils. The school also provided evidence of its provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

During the inspection, lines of enquiry were selected from the priorities identified in the school development plan; the school was asked to demonstrate how the actions taken have led to improvement for the pupils. The two key lines of enquiry focused on the school's actions to:

- develop further a curriculum model that allows an increase in the percentage of leavers achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A\* to C; and
- ensure the quality of learning experiences for pupils is consistent throughout the school through teacher-led improvement and the sharing of best practice.

### **Key findings**

- The school has developed a much broader curriculum commensurate to meeting the interests, aspirations and needs of the pupils. This, integrated with a range of intervention strategies, is reflected in the increased outcomes attained by the pupils at GCSE level. The percentage of pupils, for example, achieving five or more GCSE qualifications or equivalents at grades A\* to C has improved from below the Northern Ireland average at the time of the last inspection to above last year.
- There is whole-staff involvement in developing further learning and teaching strategies in order to improve the learning experiences of the pupils; this is informed by feedback from lesson observations and clearly targeted working groups which facilitate the sharing of good practice. In order to advance this work, the school needs to monitor more rigorously and evaluate the quality and impact of learning and teaching across the school.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding learners are in place which reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. In discussion with the inspectors, the pupils reported that they feel safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being. 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 teachers the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, and the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the pupils. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

### **Health and Safety**

- The school has carried out a risk assessment of the school premises. They have identified to the education authority the safety risk to staff and pupils about the unsecured access points to the building and the necessity to cross the road to use the canteen facilities.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2017

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: [www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk)