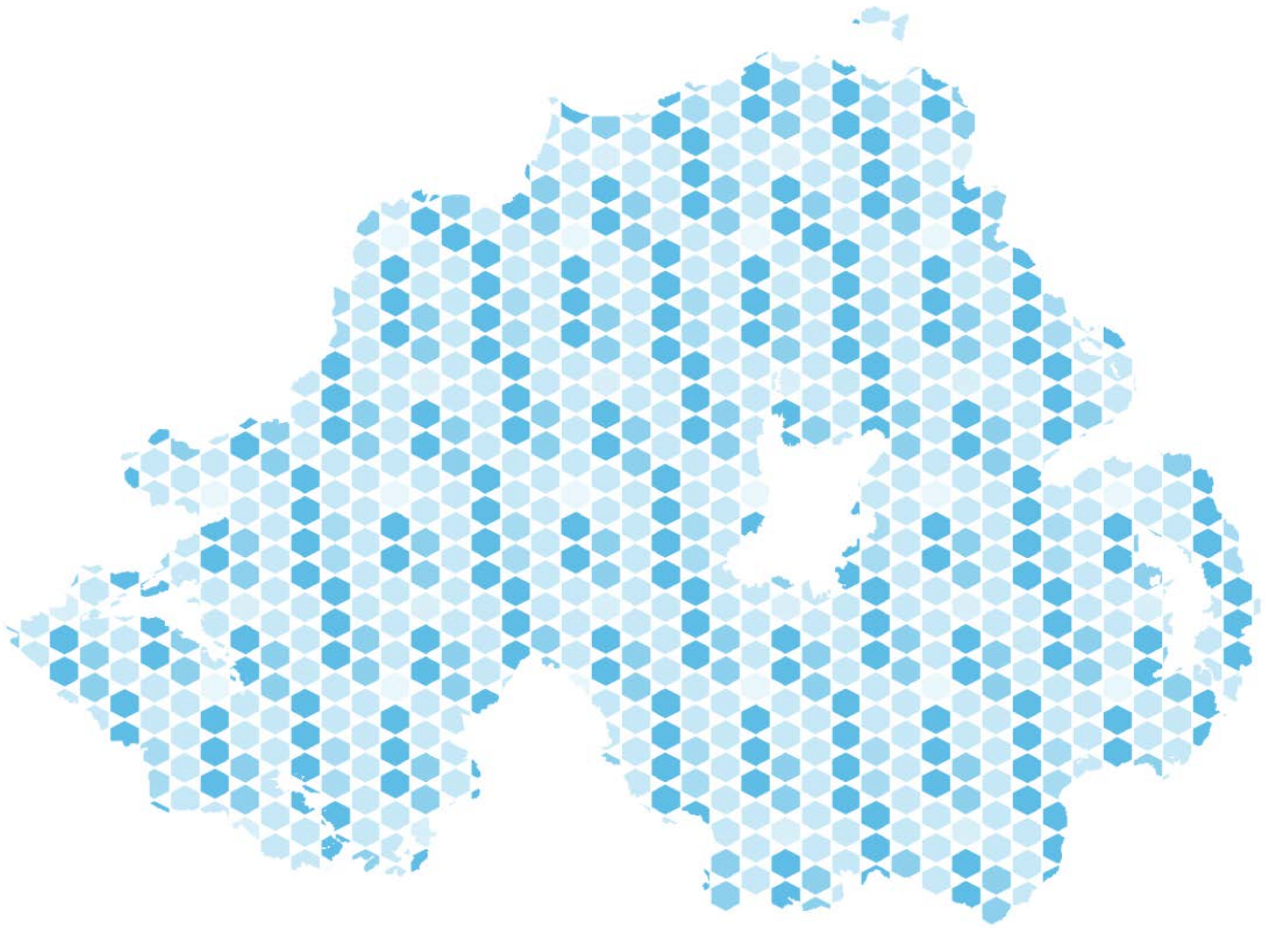


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Braidside Primary School,
Ballymena, County Antrim

Integrated, co-educational

Report of an inspection (Involving
Action Short of Strike) in
January 2017

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
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INTRODUCTION

1. Context

Braidside Integrated Primary School and nursery unit is situated in the north of Ballymena and draws most of its children from the surrounding area.

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.

2. Views of parents and staff

There were a small number of positive responses by the parents to the confidential questionnaires.

3. Focus of the inspection

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- outcomes for children with a particular focus on numeracy and literacy including across the curriculum (and how the school is addressing low attainment and underachievement where applicable;
- quality of provision with a particular focus on numeracy and literacy including across the curriculum; and
- quality of leadership and management.

Where it has been possible to evaluate aspects of the foci, they are reported below.

4. Overall findings of the inspection

Overall effectiveness	Unable to assure the quality of education
Outcomes for learners	No performance level available
Quality of provision	No performance level available
Leadership and management	No performance level available

KEY FINDINGS

5. Outcomes for learners

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- Standards attained by the children;
- progression in the children's learning; and
- the children's wider skills and dispositions.

6. Quality of provision

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the quality of the curriculum;
- the effectiveness of the guidance and support in bringing about high quality individual learning experiences;
- the effectiveness and impact of planning, teaching, learning and assessment in promoting successful learning; and
- care and welfare.

7. Leadership and management

- Based on the evidence available at the time of inspection, the ETI evaluation is that there can be confidence in the aspects of governance evaluated. The governors are well informed about the life and work of the school and have a range of complementary skills to carry out their roles with rigour. They support actively the work of the staff and provide an appropriate challenge function to the senior leadership team.
- During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements are in place for safeguarding learners.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the effectiveness of strategic leadership and governance;
- the effectiveness and impact of middle leadership; and
- the effectiveness of action to promote and sustain improvement (including self-evaluation and the development planning process).

CONCLUSION

8. Overall effectiveness

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 and safeguarding being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

The ETI will return to the school within six weeks to evaluate and report on the arrangements for safeguarding.

Health and Safety / Accommodation

1. There is open access to the school site and some of the teaching areas.
2. A risk assessment is required for the door locking system in use for the school mobiles.

Inspection methodology and evidence base

The ETI's Inspection and Self-Evaluation Framework is available on the ETI website www.etini.gov.uk.

The arrangements for this inspection included:

- the evaluation of a limited range of documentation; and
- meeting with representatives from the governors.

Reporting terms used by the Education and Training Inspectorate

Quantitative terms

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75% - 90%
A majority	-	50% - 74%
A significant minority	-	30% - 49%
A minority	-	10% - 29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

Performance levels

The ETI use the following performance levels when reporting on outcomes for learners, quality of provision and leadership and management¹:

Outstanding
Very good
Good
Important area(s) for improvement
Requires significant improvement
Requires urgent improvement

Overall effectiveness

The ETI use one of the following inspection outcomes when evaluating the overall effectiveness of the school:

The school has a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.
The school demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.
The school needs to address (an) important area(s) for improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the area(s) for improvement. There will be a formal follow-up inspection.
The school needs to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners. It requires external support to do so. The ETI will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement. There will be a formal follow-up inspection.

¹ And the overall provision in a subject area or unit, as applicable.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF BRAIDSIDE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT IN JANUARY 2017

The ETI returned to the school on 2 March 2017 to monitor and report on arrangements for safeguarding.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to provide evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding: owing to action short of strike, the school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements were in place at the time of the inspection on 23 January 2017.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education. Work on updating the positive behaviour policy is underway and needs to be completed.

In discussion, the children reported that they feel safe and cared for in the school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being.

Furthermore, health and safety issues identified in the original inspection report have been addressed by the school.

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