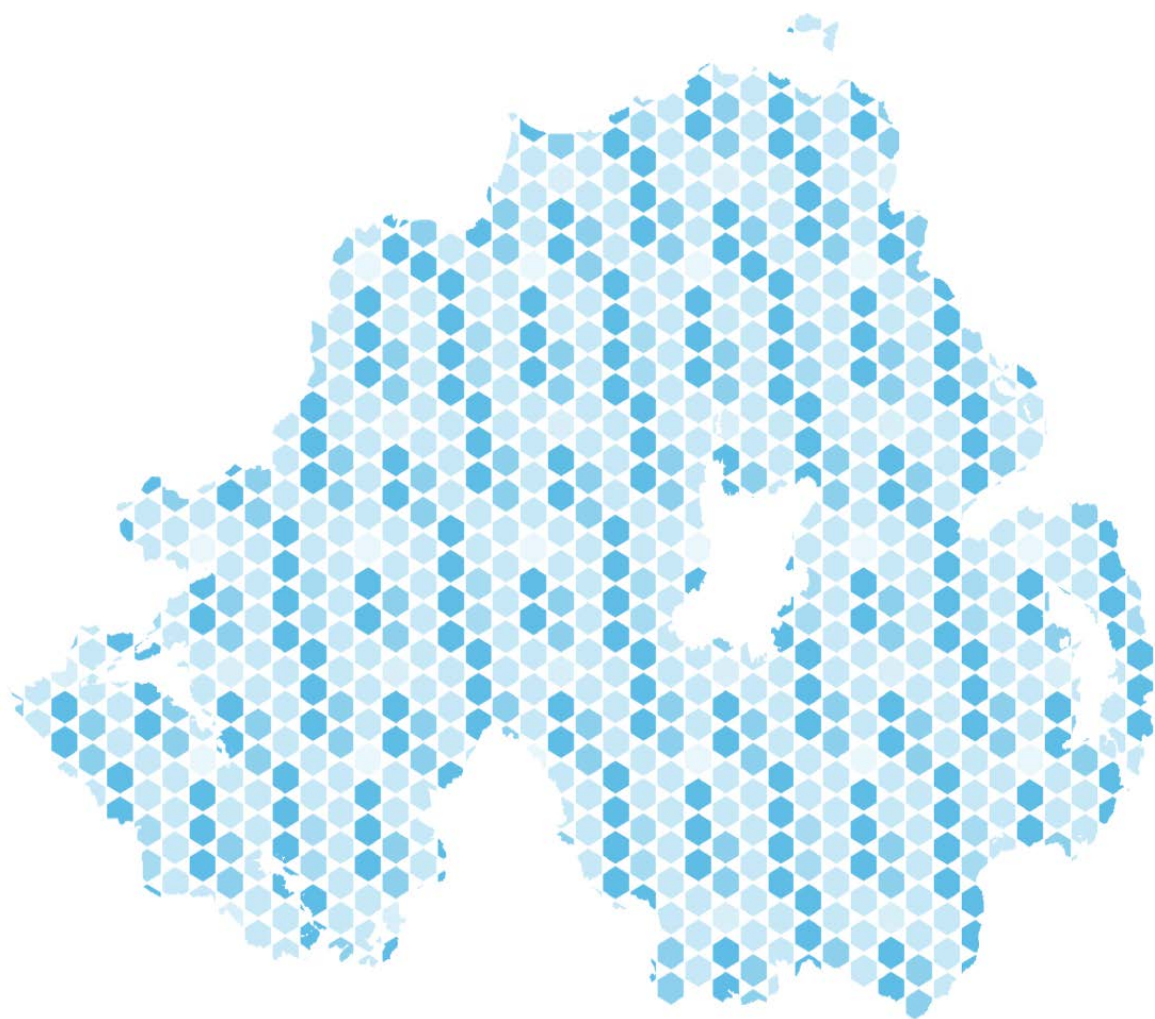


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Bunscoil Cholmcille and Naíscoil  
Dhoire, Doire/Derry

Controlled, co-educational

Report of an Inspection (Involving  
Action Short of Strike) in  
November 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
and other commissioning Departments



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## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Context

Bunscoil Cholmcille and Naíscoil Dhoire is an Irish-medium maintained primary school situated on Steelstown Road, Derry. There is a single class nursery unit in the school. Almost all of the children attending the school come from the surrounding local area. The enrolment has been decreasing slightly over the past four years and now stands at 110 children. The percentage of children entitled to free school meals has remained broadly consistent over the past four years and is currently 58%. The proportion of children requiring additional help with aspects of their learning has gradually increased over the past four years to 20%. The principal was appointed in September 2016.

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

As a result of the action short of strike, the school did not distribute the online questionnaire information to parents and staff. Therefore, it is not possible to report on the views of parents and staff.

### 3. Focus of the inspection

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- outcomes for children with a particular focus on literacy;
- quality of provision with a particular focus on literacy including across the curriculum and the nursery unit; and
- quality of leadership and management.

### 4. Overall findings of the inspection

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Unable to assure of the quality of education
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	No performance level available
<b>Quality of provision</b>	No performance level available
<b>Leadership and management</b>	No performance level available
<b>Nursery Unit</b>	No performance level available

## **KEY FINDINGS**

### **5. Outcomes for learners**

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the learning outcomes for the children, including those who require additional support with aspects of their learning;
- 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**

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 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.

### **8. Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education (DE). There is a need to review aspects of the school's policies for safeguarding and child protection, in line with the most recent DE guidance. Owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully, the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

In discussions with the inspectors, the children in year 6 spoke positively about the good relationships they have with the staff and with each other, and about the extra-curricular activities available to them in the school. They reported that they feel safe in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

## **9. 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 being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection.

**Health and safety/Accommodation**

1. In 2009, the ETI reported:

‘Teachers have worked hard to create an attractive and stimulating learning environment for the children. The school’s accommodation is, nevertheless, inadequate and falls far short of modern standards. It is unsuitable and does not meet the needs of the children and teachers and does not contribute towards raising standards.’

ETI’s reported findings from 2009 remain the same.

2. The outdoor toilets for key stage 1 and 2 constitute a safeguarding risk.
3. The paving slabs throughout the school site are uneven, slippery when wet and present a health and safety hazard.
4. Holes under a number of the mobiles classrooms are a safeguarding, health and safety risk.
5. The school has no assembly hall and no canteen facility, but does avail of these facilities in a nearby school.
6. A School Enhancement Programme submission has been made for a modular school building. Six applications have been made for minor works in relation to the school premises.

### Inspection methodology and evidence base

The ETI's Inspection and Self-Evaluation Framework is available on the ETI website: [The Inspection and Self-Evaluation Framework \(ISEF\): Effective Practice and Self-Evaluation Questions for Primary | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

Inspectors observe learning and teaching, scrutinise documentation and the children's written work and hold formal and informal discussions with children, teachers and staff with specific responsibilities.

The arrangements for inspection include:

- a meeting with representatives from the governors;
- meetings with groups of children; and
- the opportunity for the parents, teaching and support staff to complete a confidential questionnaire.

Where, owing to the action short of strike, this evidence base was not available, it has been referenced in the body of the inspection report.

The arrangements for this inspection included:

- a meeting with the principal and a member of the board of governors pertaining to safeguarding practices.

## 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 management<sup>1</sup>:

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 in 12 to 18 months.
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 in 18 to 24 months.

<sup>1</sup> And the overall provision in a unit, as applicable.



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