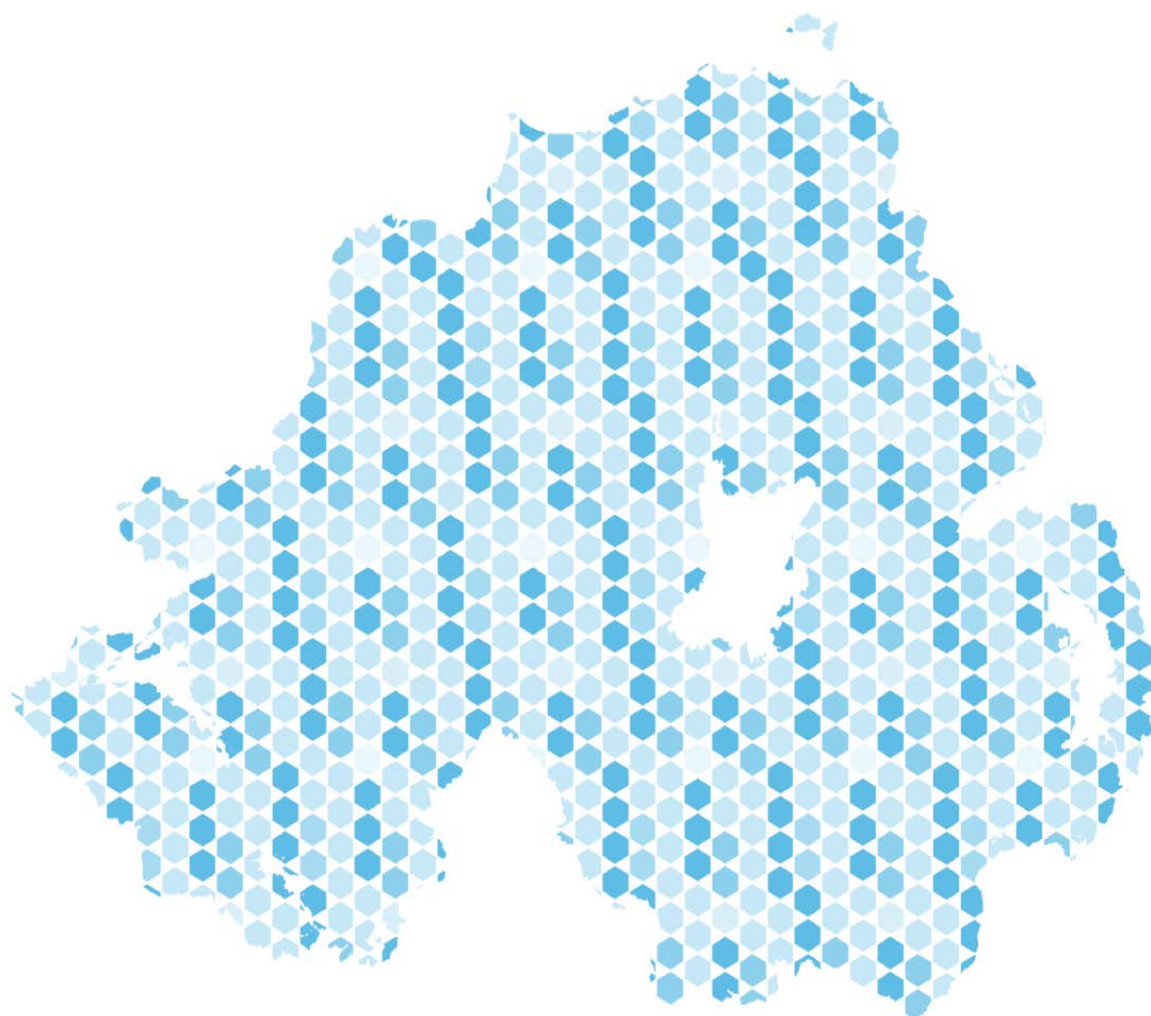


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Six Mile Integrated Primary
School, Antrim

Controlled, integrated

Report of an 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



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INTRODUCTION

1. Context

Six Mile Integrated Primary School is situated on Stiles Way on the outskirts of Antrim town. The school reports that the enrolment, which is drawn from a wide catchment area, has risen steadily over the last four years and now stands at 112 children. The school has provision for children of reception age and has two classes for children who have moderate learning difficulties. An acting-principal has been in post for four years. At the time of the inspection, the school reports that approximately 58% of the children are entitled to free school meals and almost 50% of the children are identified as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning. The school is involved in a shared education programme with a local primary school.

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, including the principal, 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.

2. Views of children, 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 nor facilitate the focus group meetings with children. Therefore, it is not possible to report on the views of parents, staff and children.

3. Focus of the inspection

The ETI was unable to evaluate the:

- outcomes for children 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 the reception and learning support classes; 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

No performance level is available for the reception and learning support centre.

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

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.

CONCLUSION

8. Overall effectiveness

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the principal and 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. 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.

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](#)

In order to conduct a primary inspection, 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.

These arrangements include:

- meetings with the principal and teachers with specific responsibilities on the pre-inspection visit;
- 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 two 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 SIX MILE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL ON 21 FEBRUARY 2017

SAFEGUARDING

In line with the child protection/safeguarding procedures of the Education and Training Inspectorate, the ETI returned to Six Mile Integrated Primary School on 6 April 2017 as a follow-up to the original inspection.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to present evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding; owing to action short of strike, the school had not provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements were in place at the time of the inspection on 21 February 2017.

Owing to ongoing action short of strike, the school did not, on 6 April 2017, provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements are in place for safeguarding learners.

Further action will be considered by the Department of Education.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF SIX MILE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL IN APRIL 2017

SAFEGUARDING

The ETI returned to the school on 18 September 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 supply evidence that satisfactory arrangements were in place at the time of the follow-up inspection in April 2017.

Based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the arrangements for safeguarding children are unsatisfactory.²

The areas which must be improved urgently include the need to:

- ensure full site security particularly at break and lunch times;
- update the safeguarding policies to reflect current school practices, recent change in key safeguarding roles and areas for improvement;
- display the names of the safeguarding team more prominently around the school and ensure that all parents are informed; and
- provide all parents with a copy of updated safeguarding policies and complaints procedure.

Owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the safeguarding arrangements in the school, including holding conversations with the teachers and the children.

Further action will be considered by the Department of Education.

² The Department of Education will seek assurance from Education Authority that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE SAFEGUARDING INSPECTION OF SIX MILE INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL, ANTRIM, IN FEBRUARY 2018

The ETI returned to the school on 5 February 2018 to monitor and report on arrangements for safeguarding.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to offer evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding. Owing to action short of strike, the school did not provide evidence the arrangements for safeguarding reflected or reflected broadly the guidance from the Department of Education at the time of the original inspection in February 2017 and subsequent safeguarding follow-up inspection in April 2017.

During the most recent safeguarding follow up inspection in September 2017 the arrangements for safeguarding children were unsatisfactory.

In line with the child protection and safeguarding procedures of the Education and Training Inspectorate, the district inspector returned to Six Mile Integrated Primary School during a second follow-up visit to the original inspection which took place on the 21 Feb 2017; the purpose of the visit was to ensure that the safeguarding issues, evaluated as unsatisfactory had been addressed.

In the interim period, the school had received support from the Child Protection School Support Service of the Education Authority and the Advisory Service of the Education Authority.

On the basis of the evidence available, the revised arrangements now reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

A range of safeguarding policies have been revised to reflect more clearly the guidance issued by Department of Education and the practices within the school. The details of the safeguarding team are now displayed prominently around the school. The safeguarding information and literature has been shared with the school community. The security of the site has been reviewed and appropriate safety measures and procedures implemented.

There remains the need to complete the ongoing work of updating risk assessments, training, policies and procedures.

During discussions the children report that they feel safe in school and know what to do and who to talk to if they have concerns about their safety or well-being. Owing to the ongoing industrial action short of strike being taken by staff members, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

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