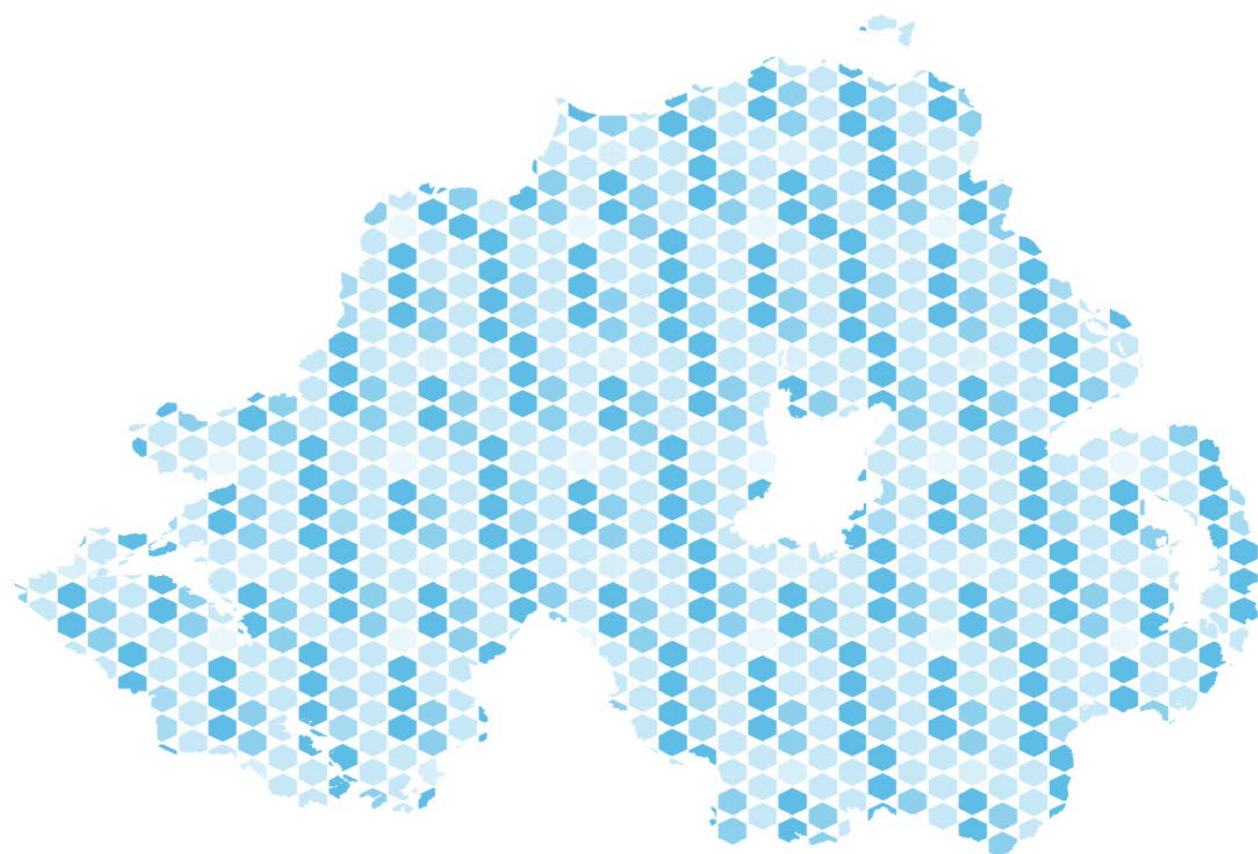


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Malachy's Primary School,
Magherafelt, County Londonderry

Maintained, 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

St Malachy's Primary School is situated in the village of Drumullan, Magherfelt, County Londonderry. All of the children come from the surrounding area. The enrolment has remained stable over the previous four years. A new chair of the board of governors was appointed on the 15 November 2017.

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 numeracy, including across the curriculum;
- quality of provision with a particular focus on numeracy; 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:

- 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

- Based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection, the arrangements for safeguarding the children are unsatisfactory.¹

The areas which must be improved urgently include:

- the provision of up-to-date safeguarding governor training for the chairperson and designated governor for safeguarding in order that they fulfil their statutory function of overseeing the policies and procedures for safeguarding the children;

¹ The Department of Education will seek assurance from the Education Authority / Catholic Council for Maintained Schools that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

- the review and update of the following key policies and procedures which need to be shared with the parents:
 - the staff code of conduct;
 - positive behaviour management policy;
 - anti-bullying policy;
 - intimate care procedure; and
 - internet safety policy;
- the development of appropriate risk assessments for visits and trips; and
- the scheduling of policy review and development which is informed through evidence-based monitoring and evaluation at all levels of leadership and management.
- During the inspection, the inspectors met with the year 6 children who spoke positively about their learning experiences. They reported that they feel safe in school and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.

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 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 the progress in addressing the arrangements for safeguarding.

Accommodation/ Health and safety

1. The perimeter fence varies in height and is too low in places.

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 a representative 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 chair of governors and the designated teacher for safeguarding who is the principal;
- a meeting with a group of year 6 children; and
- an opportunity to read documentation presented as supporting evidence of the safeguarding arrangements.

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 management²:

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.

² And the overall provision in a unit, as applicable.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF ST MALACHY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL IN NOVEMBER 2017

SAFEGUARDING

In line with the child protection/safeguarding procedures of the Education and Training Inspectorate, the district inspector from the original inspection returned to St Malachy's Primary School on 19 January 2018 as a follow-up to the inspection which took place on 27 November 2017; the purpose of the visit was to ensure that the safeguarding issues, evaluated as unsatisfactory in the inspection, had been addressed.

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

During the interim period, the school had received support from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, the Advisory Service and the Child Protection School Support Service of the Education Authority.

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