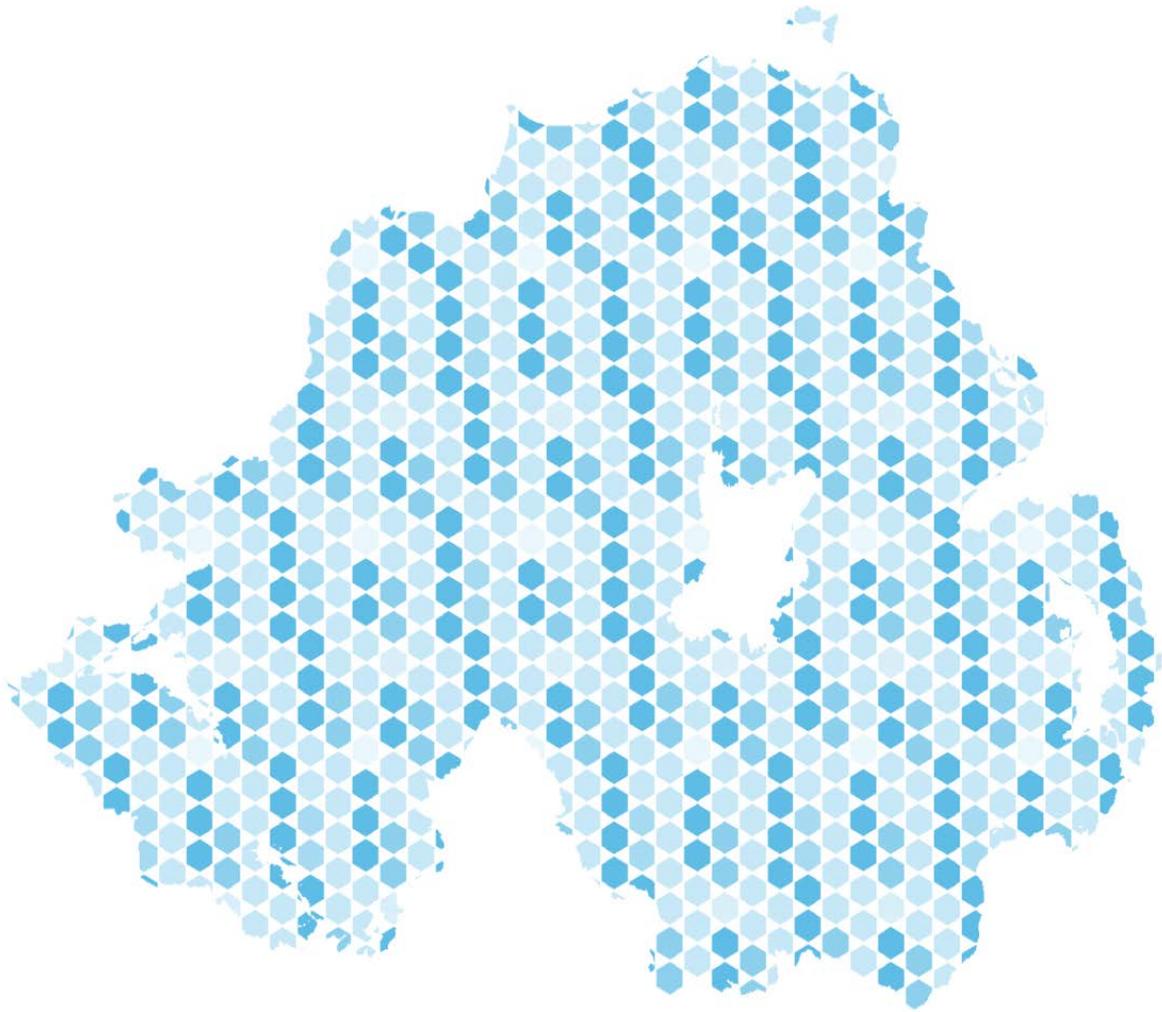


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Mary's Primary School, Cabragh,  
Dungannon, County Tyrone

Co-educational, Catholic maintained

Report of an Inspection (Involving  
Action Short of Strike) in  
September 2018



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 Mary's Primary School is a maintained primary school situated in the townland of Cabragh, six miles from Dungannon. All of the children attending the school come from the local area. The enrolment is steady and the school operates at almost full capacity. The school has attained a number of awards in recognition of the children's musical and sporting achievements, and for the school's contribution to improving the local environment. This year, the school is celebrating the milestone of the 50 years' anniversary of the opening of the 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 none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal and designated teacher for child protection co-operated with the inspection team in relation to their leadership and safeguarding responsibilities. 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.

St Mary's Primary School	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Enrolment	200	199	203	202
% School attendance	95.9	96.3	97.6	N/A
% NI Primary school average	95.5	95.5	N/A	N/A
FSME Percentage <sup>1</sup>	32	32	24	25
No. of children on SEN register	17	19	16	18
% of children on SEN register	9	10	8	9
No. of children with statements of educational need	*	*	*	*
No. of newcomer children	6	8	10	10

**Source:** data as held by the school.

\* fewer than 5

N/A not available

### 2. Children's, parents' and staff questionnaire responses

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

### 3. Focus of the inspection

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- outcomes for children with a particular focus on numeracy and literacy;

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<sup>1</sup> The term 'FSME Percentage' refers to the percentage of children entitled to free school meals.

- quality of provision with a particular focus on numeracy and literacy including across the curriculum; and
- quality of leadership and management.

#### 4. Overall findings of the inspection

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Unable to assure 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

### 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

- In discussion with the inspectors, a group of year 6 children spoke very positively about: the friendly ethos of the school; the variety of ways in which they can put forward their views in matters which affect them, such as, their active role in the School Council; the rewards system for promoting positive behaviour; and, the wide range of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities available to them.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- 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

- The school development plan has been informed by the analysis of qualitative and quantitative data, and through meaningful consultation with all stakeholders. The staff have identified appropriate priorities for development and have drawn up action plans of a very good quality to support this work. A range of mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating progress have been established to help ensure the actions identified are having the desired effect.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- 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. A group of year 6 children reported that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. 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.

## **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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

**Health and safety/accommodation**

A risk assessment by the school has identified that the perimeter fencing at the rear of the school needs to be enhanced to improve the safety and security of the school site; the inspection findings endorse this assessment.

## **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 children, parents, teaching and support staff to complete an online, 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 designated teacher in relation to their leadership and safeguarding responsibilities;
- access to the school's documentation relating to child protection/safeguarding and a tour of the building to ascertain the safety of the school site;
- a meeting with a small group of year 6 children; and
- a discussion with the principal in relation to school development planning and access to supporting documentation.

## 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>2</sup>:

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

The ETI use the following levels when reporting on governance:

High degree of confidence
Confidence
Limited confidence

The ETI use the following levels when reporting on safeguarding:

Reflects the guidance
Reflects broadly the guidance
Unsatisfactory

The ETI use the following levels when reporting on care and welfare:

Impacts positively on learning, teaching and outcomes for learners.
Does not impact positively enough on learning, teaching and outcomes for learners.

<sup>2</sup> And the overall provision in a unit, as applicable.

## 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.

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