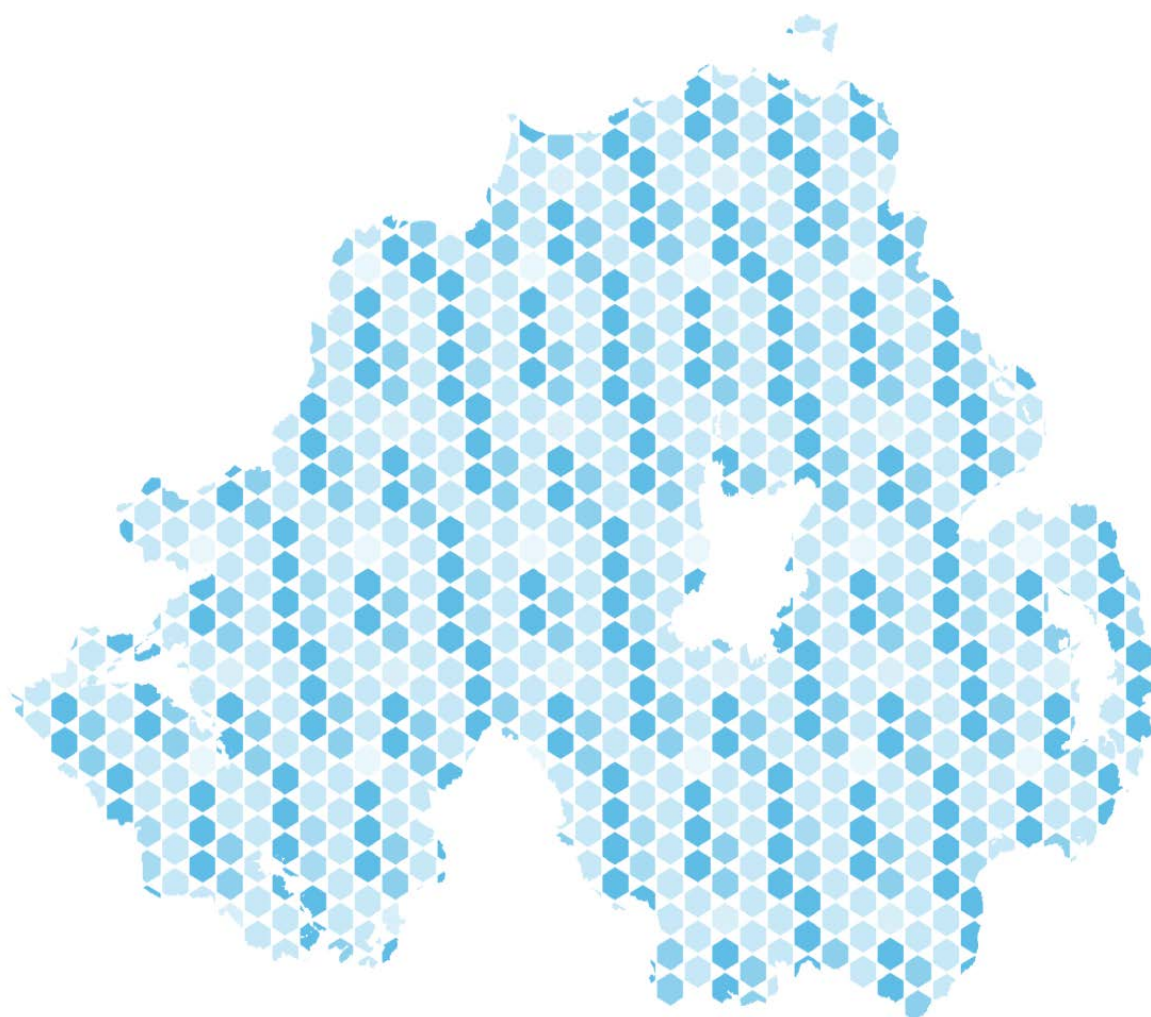


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Acorn Integrated Primary School  
and Nursery Unit, Carrickfergus,  
County Antrim

Integrated, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement  
Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in  
June 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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CUSTOMER  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Acorn Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit, Carrickfergus, County Antrim (306-6568)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in March 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Acorn Integrated Primary School as good<sup>1</sup>. In the interim period, there has been an increasing trend in the number of children entitled to free school meals and an increasing number of children identified with additional needs. This has resulted in a significant increase in the number of classroom assistants employed. The school has had building work completed to improve and enhance the accommodation, outdoor area and security of the grounds. A new numeracy co-ordinator has been appointed. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 5 June 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.

## **Focus of the inspection**

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- to improve the quality of learning and teaching in mathematics; and
- to develop the rigorous approaches to self-evaluation.

## **Key findings**

- The displays around the school and discussions with a group of year seven children indicates an increased promotion and awareness of how mathematics is integrated into every day, real life contexts and used across the wider curriculum.
- The school development plan is compliant with the Department of Education regulations<sup>2</sup> and identifies clearly the strengths and areas for improvement with supporting evidence. Staff share practice and are allocated time and training to develop their roles.

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<sup>1</sup> A school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

<sup>2</sup> The Education (School Development Planning) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding broadly reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The children spoke about their enjoyment of school, their involvement in a 'buddy' system to support the younger children and reported that they feel safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being. 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.

## **Conclusion**

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the teachers, 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.

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