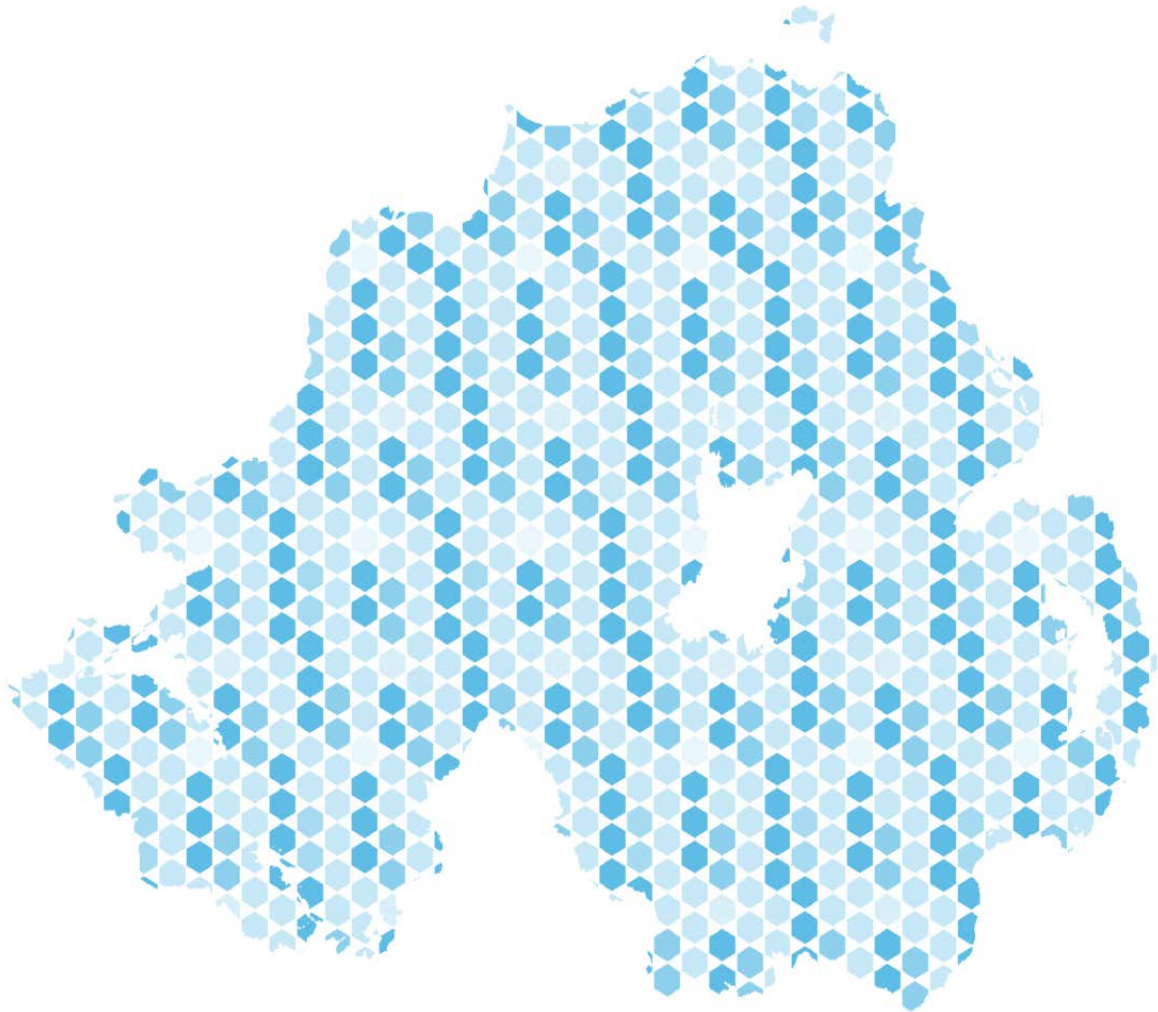


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Eglinton Primary School, Eglinton,
County Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in May 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Eglinton Primary School, Eglinton, County Londonderry (201-2245)

Introduction

The follow-up inspection in June 2012 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Eglinton Primary School as very good¹. In January 2015, the school took part in the pilot of the sustaining improvement inspection (SII). In the interim: a new school building has opened; and, there have been a number of changes in the senior leadership team. A second SII was conducted on 10 May 2018.

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 most of the staff 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.

Focus of the inspection

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to focus on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- In discussion with the inspectors, a group of year 6 children talked positively about their involvement in the comprehensive and inclusive range of creative and sporting activities and, the opportunities to take on leadership responsibilities throughout key stage 2. They participate, for example, in the roles of anti-bullying ambassadors and digital leaders; and, the children collaborate regularly with a local nursing home and a maintained school through the Shared Education Partnership to develop wider skills and dispositions.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the lines of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully, through discussions with staff and the children, the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school. The children in year 6, who spoke to the inspectors, reported that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

Conclusion

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.

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