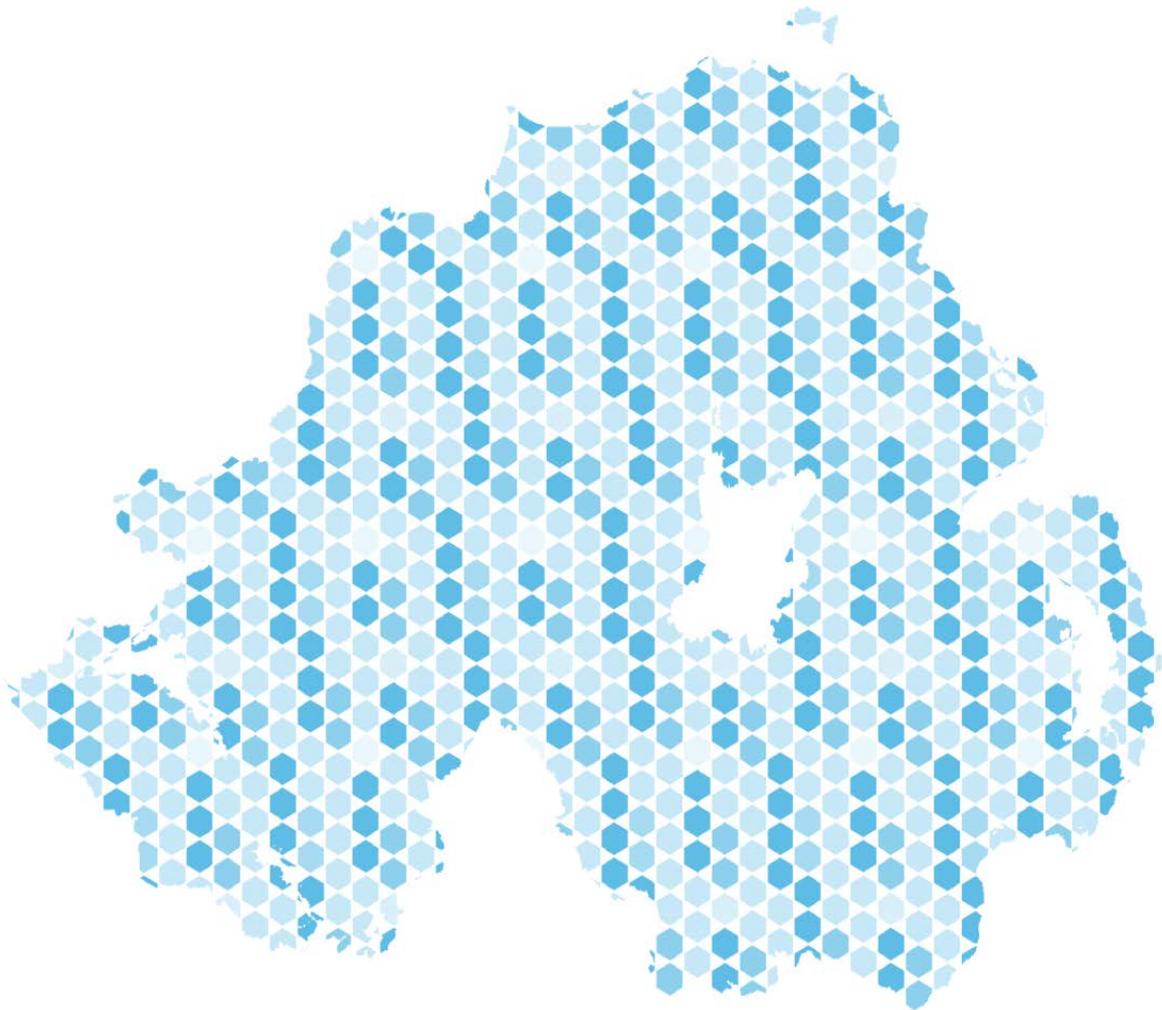


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Harpur's Hill Primary School,  
Coleraine, County Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational

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



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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Harpur's Hill Primary School, Coleraine, County Londonderry (301-6052)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in November 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Harpur's Hill Primary School and nursery unit as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. Since the last inspection, the enrolment has seen year-on-year increases and now stands at 236 children, including the children who attend the nursery unit, which is a nine per-cent increase over the period. The school has attained a notable quality assurance award for its nurture provision, the significance of which is about building capacity in nurture across the whole school. The school maintains a shared education partnership with a nearby maintained school. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 8 November 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 none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal and vice-principal co-operated with the inspectors as part of their safeguarding and leadership 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.

### **Focus of the inspection**

The purpose of the SII was to evaluate 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 develop further the outdoor play and the outdoor provision; and
- to improve the quality of the science provision across the school.

### **Key findings**

- A group of children from year 6, who met with the inspectors, spoke confidently and very positively about aspects of the school's provision. In particular, they expressed an enjoyment of reading, aspects of mathematics and science and they spoke enthusiastically about the extra-curricular provision. The children spoke well about the many opportunities the school provides them to develop leadership roles, including those through the School Council, Eco Council and as 'digital leaders.'
- The very capable leadership of the school maintains and inspires an effective culture of self-evaluation while supporting the professional development and capacity of its staff. The school continues to have effective monitoring, evaluation and consultation processes in place, which identifies appropriate priorities contained in the school development plan.

- Planning for the delivery of the science provision has been developed well through supporting appropriately the children's literacy and numeracy skills through focused planning for infusing cross-curricular skills into the learning.
- Considerable improvements have been made to outdoor play through a clearer focus on planning for learning through play across the foundation stage curriculum. Significant investment has taken place to provide a well-defined and purposeful outdoor play area, which has been developed since the time of the last inspection and from which the children now benefit. The school continues to maintain good links with the community it serves, which contributes to improving the outdoor provision further, such as the inter-generational gardening work which takes place in this environment.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

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

### **Safeguarding**

- During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. In discussion with the inspectors, the group of year 6 children stated that they feel safe and 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 arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

### **Conclusion**

Owing to the impact of 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 education provided for the children. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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