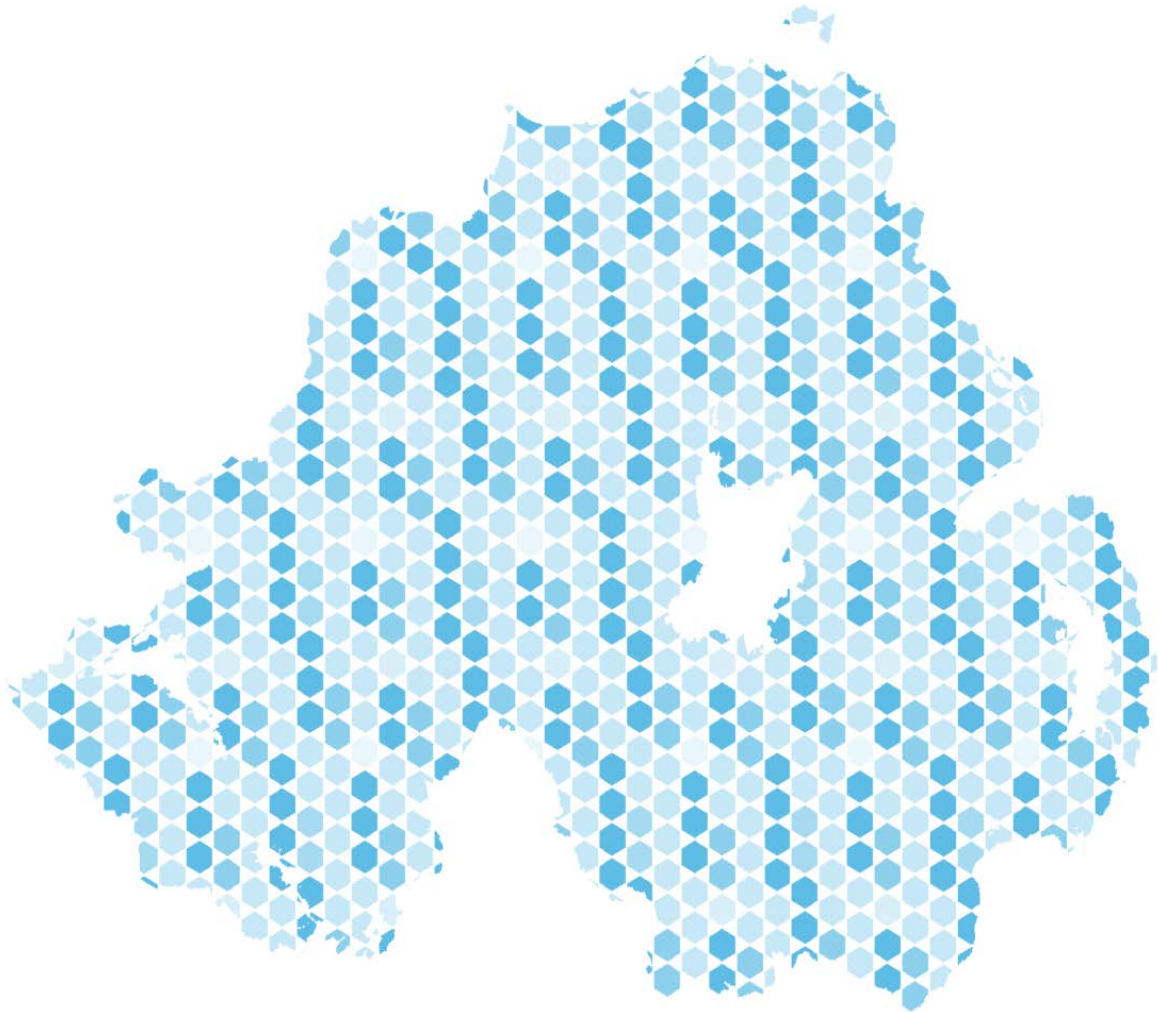


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Hezlett Primary School,
Castlerock, County Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Hezlett Primary School, Castlerock, County Londonderry (301-2229)

Introduction

The previous inspection in May 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Hezlett Primary School as good¹. In the interim, there have been no significant changes to the staff apart from the appointment of a new vice-principal and the enrolment has remained stable at around 246 children. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 4 and 5 June 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 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 line of inquiry during the SII was:

- to assess the further development of the school's planning and provision for play-based learning in the reception class and across the foundation stage.

Key findings

- Appropriate actions have taken place since the original inspection to improve the planning for early years education in the school. Additional space has been used and developed well in the school grounds to provide extended opportunities for play, along with appropriate investment in resources to widen the children's play-based learning experiences and improve their enjoyment of play.
- In discussions with the inspectors, the group of year 7 children talked positively and confidently about their experiences in school. The children identified the School Council and the Eco-work of the school as areas that provide them with good opportunities to contribute to school life. They talked about the positive working relationships they have with the staff and valued the leadership roles they have in providing help and support for the younger children as their 'playground buddies' and reading helpers.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the line of inquiry;
- 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 discussions 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.

APPENDIX

Health and safety/Accommodation

- There is inadequate perimeter fencing around the school.
- There is unsafe access to the roads surrounding the school from the playground.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2018

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk