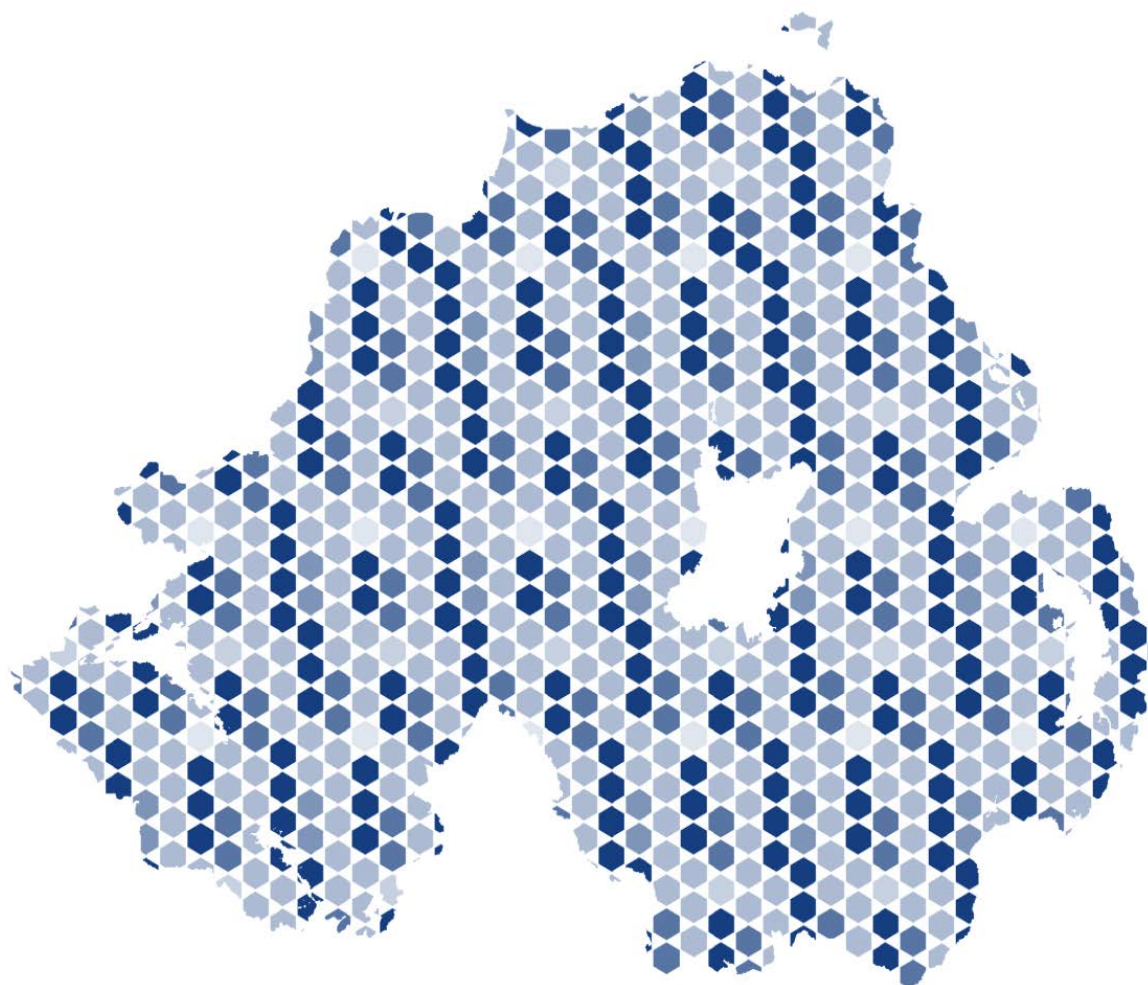


# POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Kilkeel High School, Kilkeel,  
County Down

Controlled, non-selective, 11 – 18 co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
and other commissioning Departments



## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Kilkeel High school, County Down (521-0016)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in March 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Kilkeel High School as very good<sup>1</sup>. In the interim period, there has been a change in senior leadership with the appointment of a new principal and a new vice-principal. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 21 and 22 March 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 almost all of the teachers would not be co-operating with the inspectors. The ETI have 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:

- self-evaluation - an evaluation of the use of performance and other data to improve learning and teaching and raise the pupils' attainment; and
- a school connected to the community - link local businesses with pupils and engage local businesses in the wider life of the school.

### **Key findings**

- The school development plan for 2016-2019 has been informed by consultation and a process of self-evaluation. The pupil voice is an important part of this process, through twice yearly individual performance review meetings with form teachers.
- The curriculum provision has been modified to better meet the needs and interests of all the pupils. There is a good range of academic and vocational subjects available at GCSE level or equivalent that facilitate a choice of career pathways. The percentage of pupils achieving five or more GCSEs or equivalents at grades A\* to C, including English and Maths, is slightly above the Northern Ireland average for similar schools. The post-16 course options are being developed through appropriate links with the Area Learning Community.
- The school has been proactive in developing effective links with the local business community and a higher education provider. These connections are having a direct impact on resourcing in the school, broadening learning opportunities for the pupils and enhancing career pathways for them.

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

The ETI was unable to evaluate the first line of enquiry, including:

- how self-evaluation at departmental level is impacting on learning and teaching to raise attainment;
- how the evaluation of data is being used to inform planning for learning and teaching of those pupils who are underperforming and the strategies being used to raise attainment of boys in particular; and
- the impact of the pupils' individual target-setting process.

### **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect<sup>2</sup> the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

### **Conclusion**

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by almost all of 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 pupils. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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<sup>2</sup> From January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as comprehensive are reported as **reflect** the guidance.

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