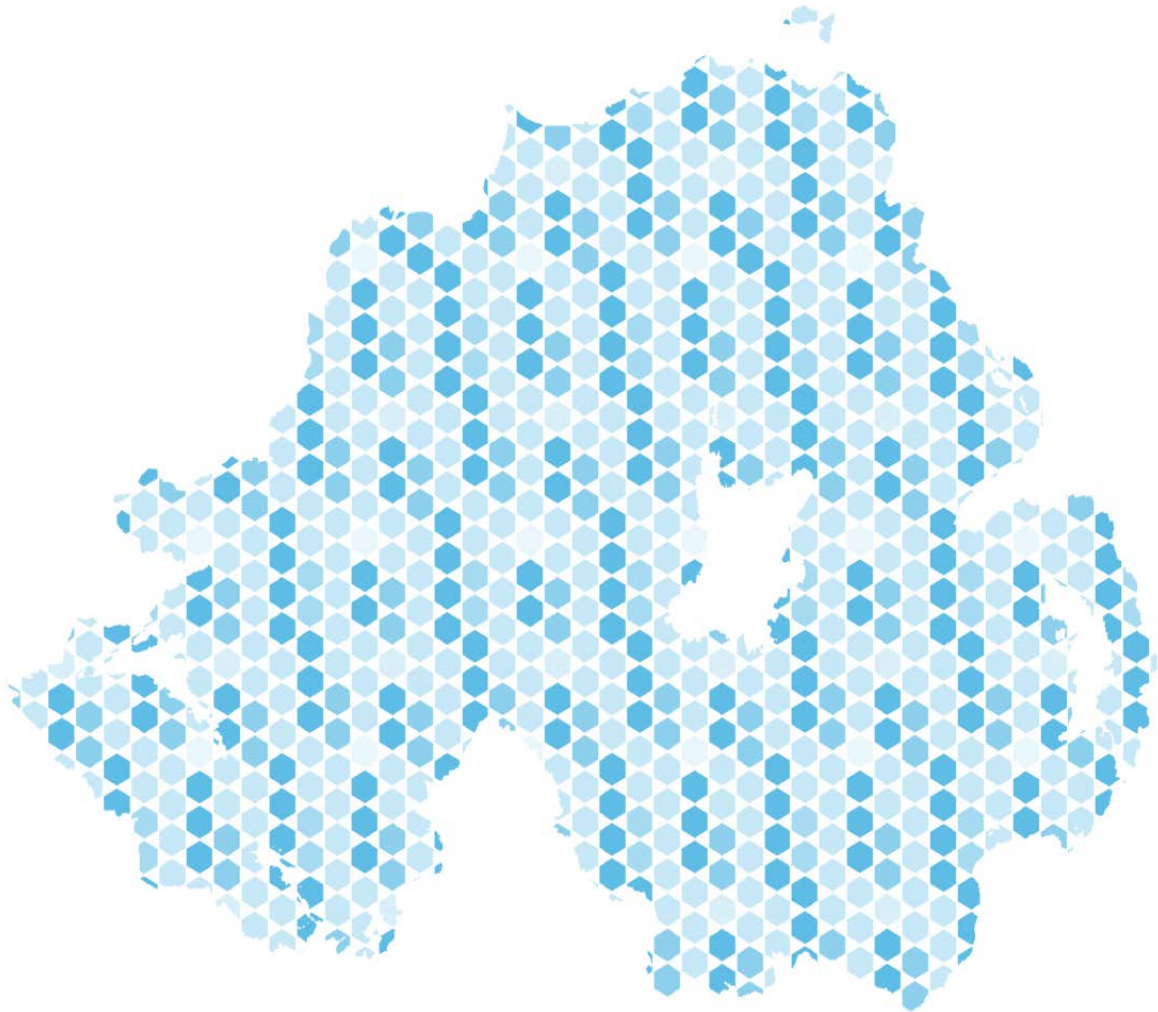


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Killen Primary School, Castleberg,
County Tyrone

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



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Killen Primary School, Castlederg, County Tyrone (201-2641)

Introduction

The previous inspection in December 2011 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Killen Primary School as very good.¹ The school took part in the pilot of the sustaining improvement inspection (SII). A further SII was conducted on 20 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

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 and sustain improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The year 6 children spoke positively of the friendly working relationships within the school.

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 (DE). However, there is a need to review aspects of the school's child protection and associated policies to ensure that they reflect more fully the most recent guidance from the DE. This includes the school's intimate care policy and the relationships and sexuality education policy. There is also a need to ensure that all governors receive the necessary safeguarding training. The children reported that they feel safe in school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns 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.

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.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the principal and 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. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

Health and safety

1. The school needs to review the security arrangements of the access to and within the school grounds.

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