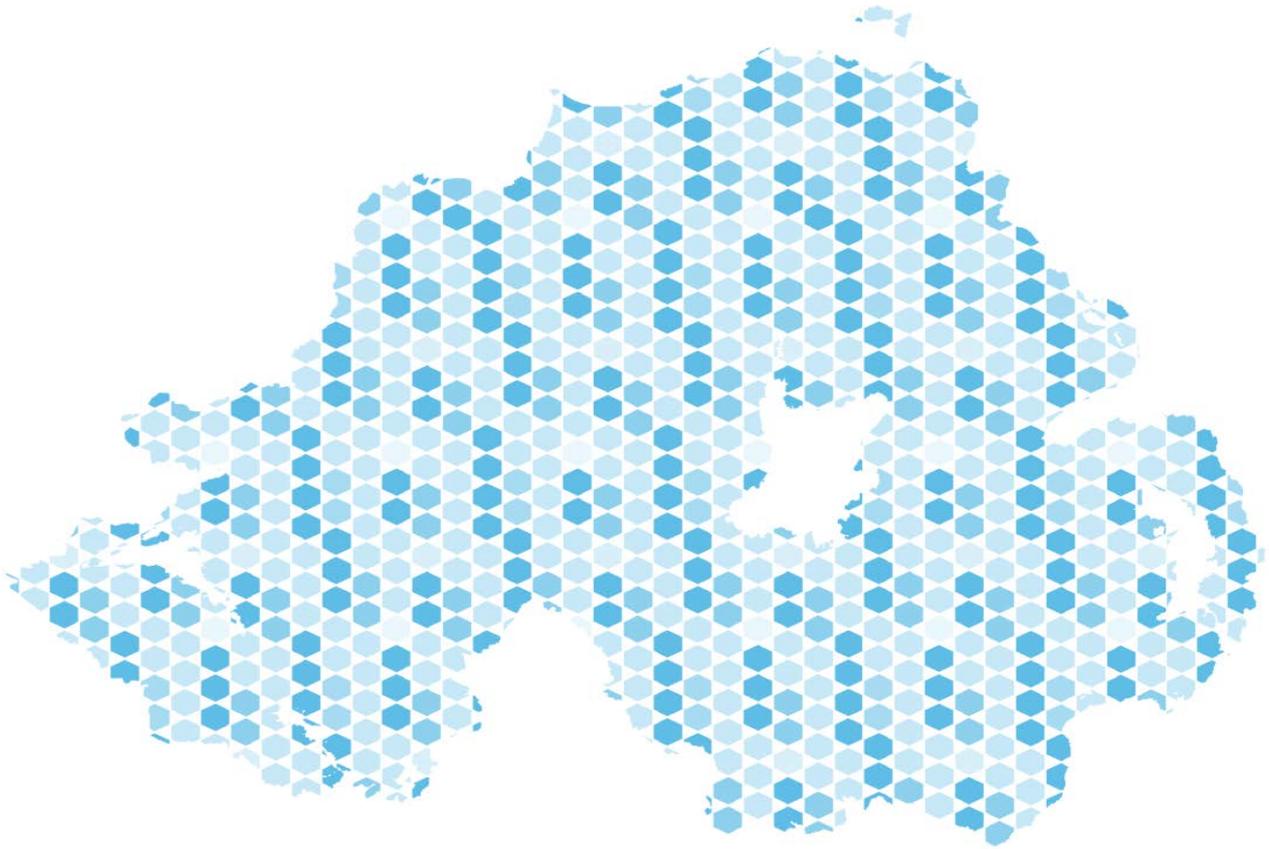


Education and Training Inspectorate PRIMARY INSPECTION



Kirkinriola Primary School, Ballymena, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No: 301-0780

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in December 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

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Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Kirkinriola Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 3 December 2019.

The trade unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute, and also workload and other management issues. The industrial action 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 inspection. A governor co-operated with the inspection team in relation to safeguarding. 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the line 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. However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

The school needs to:

- update the Anti-bullying Policy to reflect more fully the current guidance from the Department of Education.

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. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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