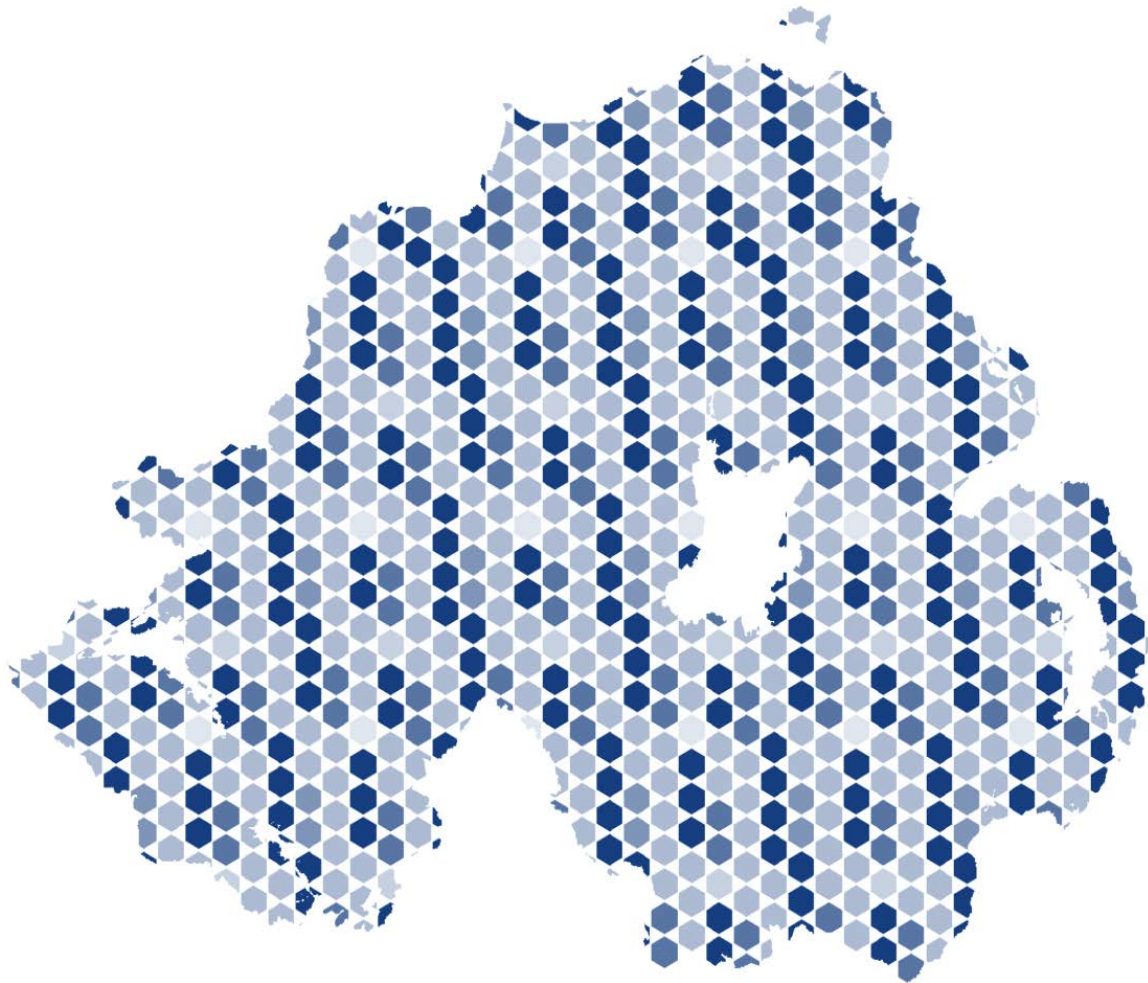


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Lisneal College, Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational, 11 – 18 school

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in May 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 Lisneal College, Londonderry (221-0306)

Introduction

The previous inspection in December 2013 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Lisneal College as good¹. In the interim, a new principal has been appointed and changes in the makeup of the senior leadership team have taken place. Over the same period, enrolments to the school have begun to increase. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 10 and 11 May 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 only the principal and senior leadership team would 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 its provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- the more effective use of data to raise further the outcomes attained by all pupils; and
- the use of self-evaluation as a vehicle to improve leadership at all levels.

Key findings

- The percentage of the pupils attaining five or more GCSE or equivalent qualifications at grades A* to C has improved significantly, and is now well above the Northern Ireland (NI) average. The outcomes attained by the pupils in GCSE English have similarly improved. At post-16, the outcomes attained by the pupils have been above the NI average for two out of the last three years.
- The improved outcomes are a result of the improving capacity of the school to undertake self-evaluation leading to improvement, including the targeted use of assessment data to raise the expectations of pupils and teachers, and to identify the need for interventions to further support the pupils' progress in their learning.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding pupils are in place which reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The pupils reported that they feel safe in school; they know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned 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 Since September 2015, a school previously evaluated as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the teachers the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, and the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the pupils. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

Health and Safety

- Work is underway to improve the security of access to the school building; this needs to be completed promptly to ensure access is fully controlled.

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