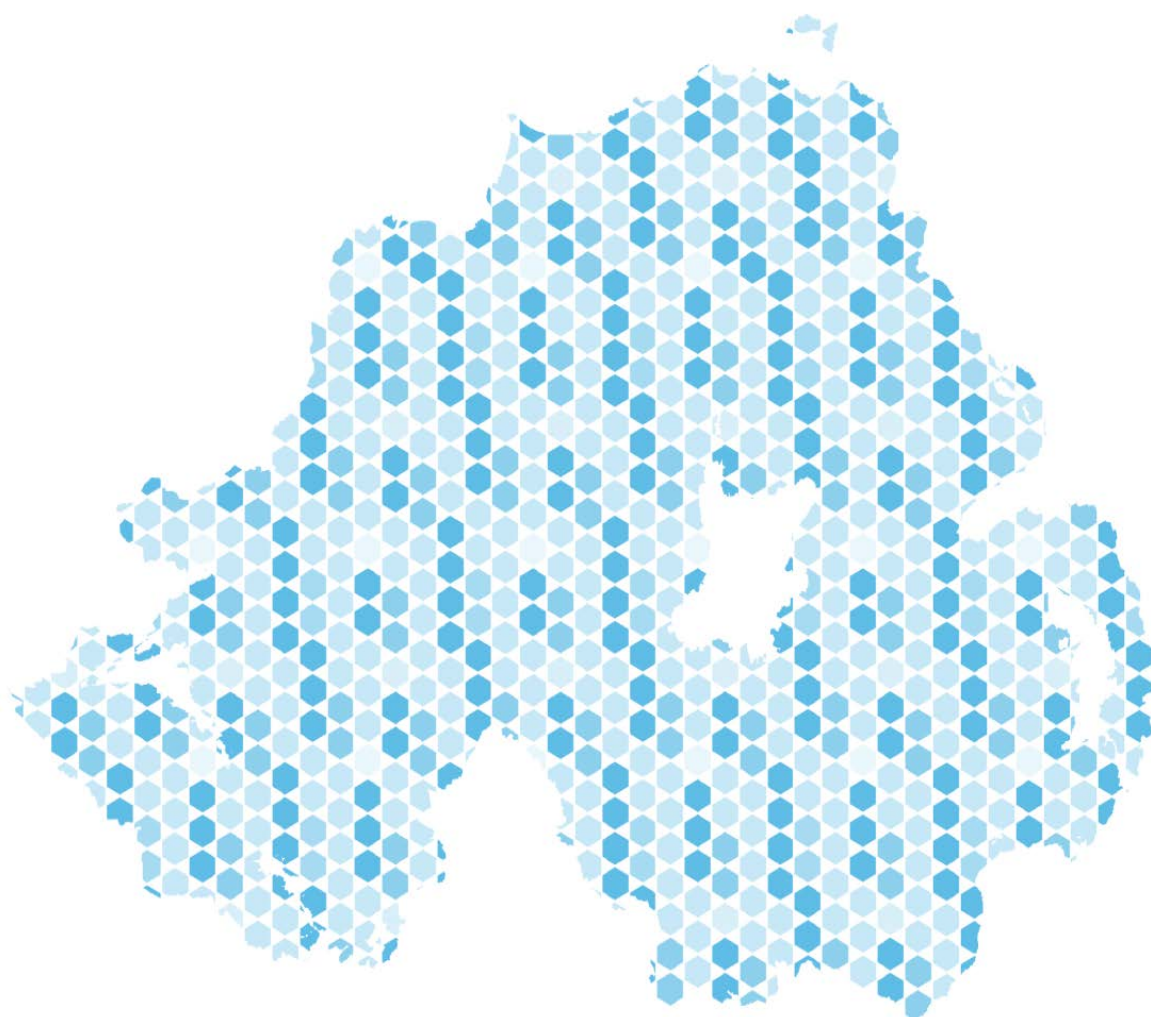


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Loanends Primary School, Crumlin,
County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

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

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Loanends Primary School, Crumlin, County Antrim (301-0745)

Introduction

The previous inspection in March 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Loanends Primary School as very good¹. The enrolment has increased slightly since the last inspection and the number of children requiring support with aspects of their learning has grown by 11% and now stands at 27% of the total number of children. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 8 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 none of the teachers, including the principal, 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 improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of enquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The ETI was unable to evaluate:
- the lines of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Work on the following aspects is underway and needs to be completed:

- the chair of governors, who is enrolled on the relevant Education Authority course, is due to update the required training in safeguarding; and
- there is no perimeter fence between the car park and the school playing field and the adjacent boundary fence is not fit for purpose which represent health and safety risks.

¹ 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.

During discussions, the children 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.

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.

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