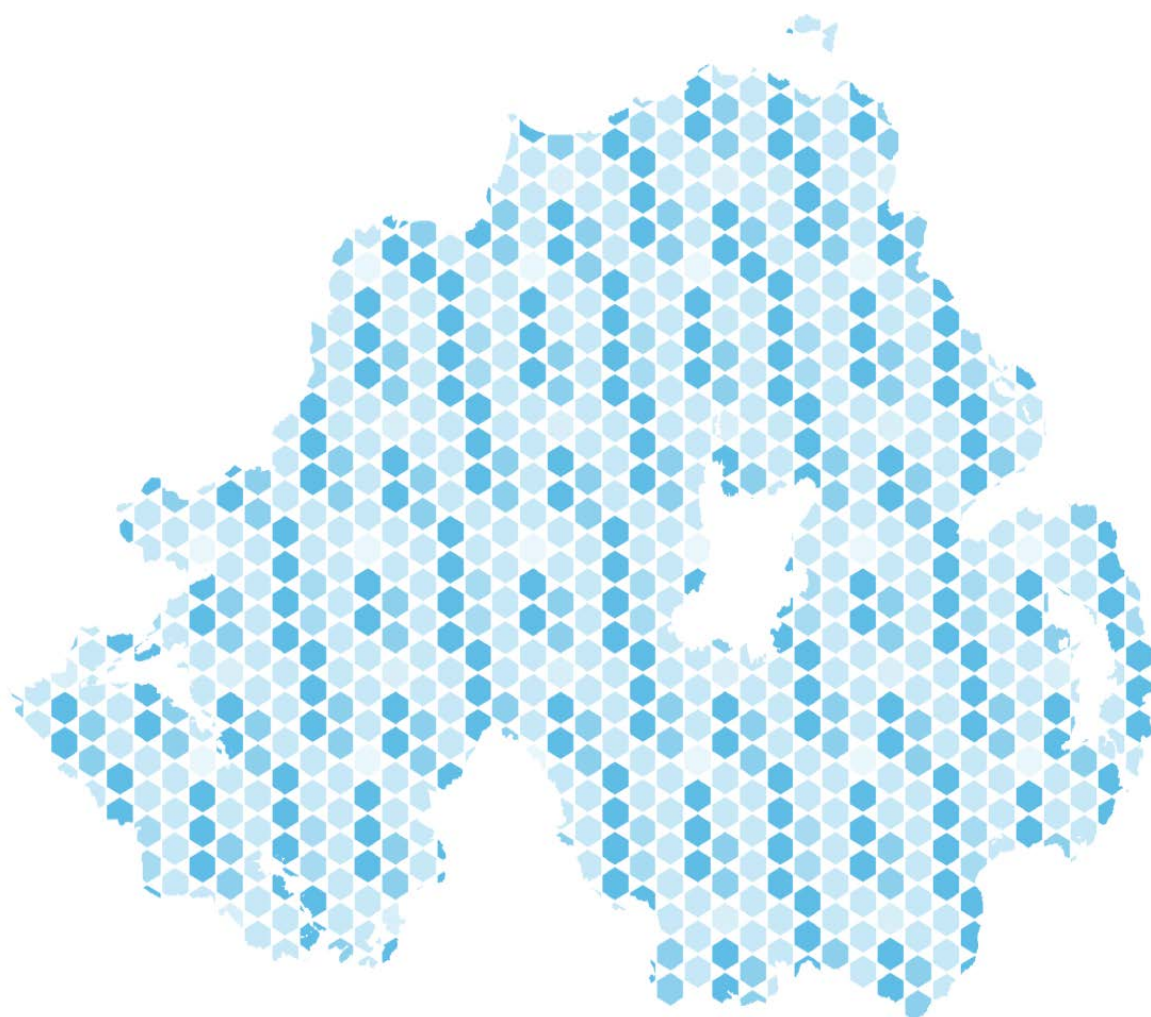


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Malvern Primary School,  
Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement  
Inspection (Involving Action Short of  
Strike) in February 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 Malvern Primary School, Belfast (101-6498)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in December 2013 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Malvern Primary School as good<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 9 February 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 all of the teachers and the acting-principal would not 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 development planning; and
- lines of inquiry, including an area for improvement which the school needed to address from the original inspection, were not selected from the development plan priorities.

### **Key findings**

The ETI was unable to evaluate an area for improvement which the school needed to address from the original inspection in 2013, namely to:

- review the planning and provision in the foundation stage to ensure further progression in the children's learning.

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

### **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements are in place for safeguarding learners.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 action short of strike being taken by the teachers and the acting-principal, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education and safeguarding being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

The ETI will return to the school within six weeks to monitor and report on the arrangements for safeguarding.

## **ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE SUSTAINING IMPROVEMENT INSPECTION OF MALVERN PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST IN FEBRUARY 2017**

The ETI returned to the school on Friday 24 March 2017 to monitor and report on arrangements for safeguarding.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to provide evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding; owing to action short of strike, the school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements were in place at the time of the Sustaining Improvement Inspection in February 2017.

Owing to the ongoing action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2017

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: [www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk)