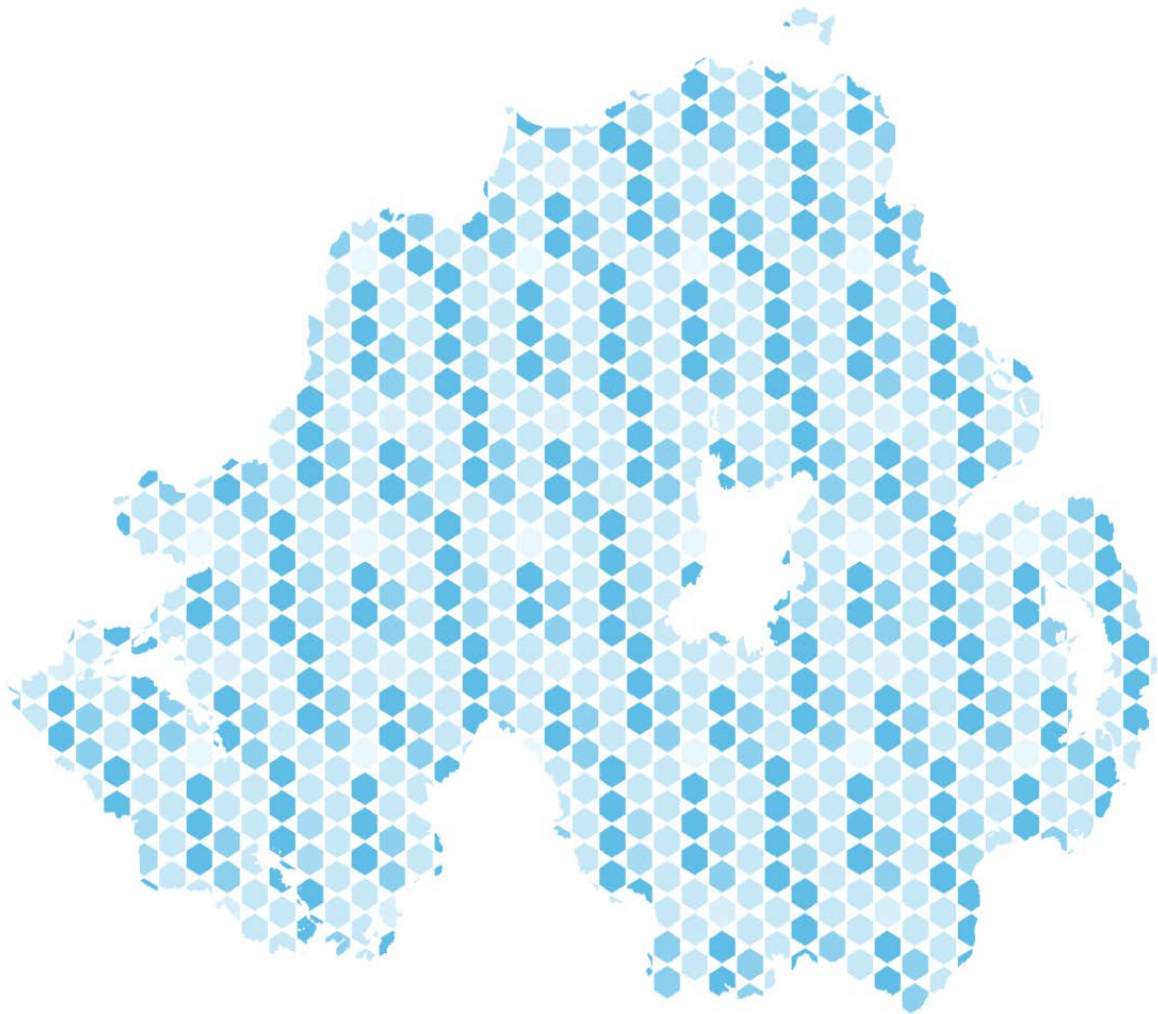


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Millquarter Primary School,
Toomebridge, County Antrim

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in May 2018



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 Millquarter Primary School, Toomebridge, County Antrim (303-0438)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Millquarter Primary School as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 14 May 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

- In discussions with the inspector, the children in year 6 expressed their appreciation of the positive working relationships and the extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities provided for them in school.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the progress being made in addressing the areas for improvement from the inspection in 2015, namely, the need to develop further the teachers' planning to focus more clearly on the children's learning and to develop further the rigorous approach to self-evaluation at all levels.
- 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. It will be important for the staff to review and update the pastoral policies to reflect and guide practice within the school. In discussions with the inspector, the children in year 6 reported that they feel safe and happy in school and know what to do and whom 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 A school evaluated previously 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 children. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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