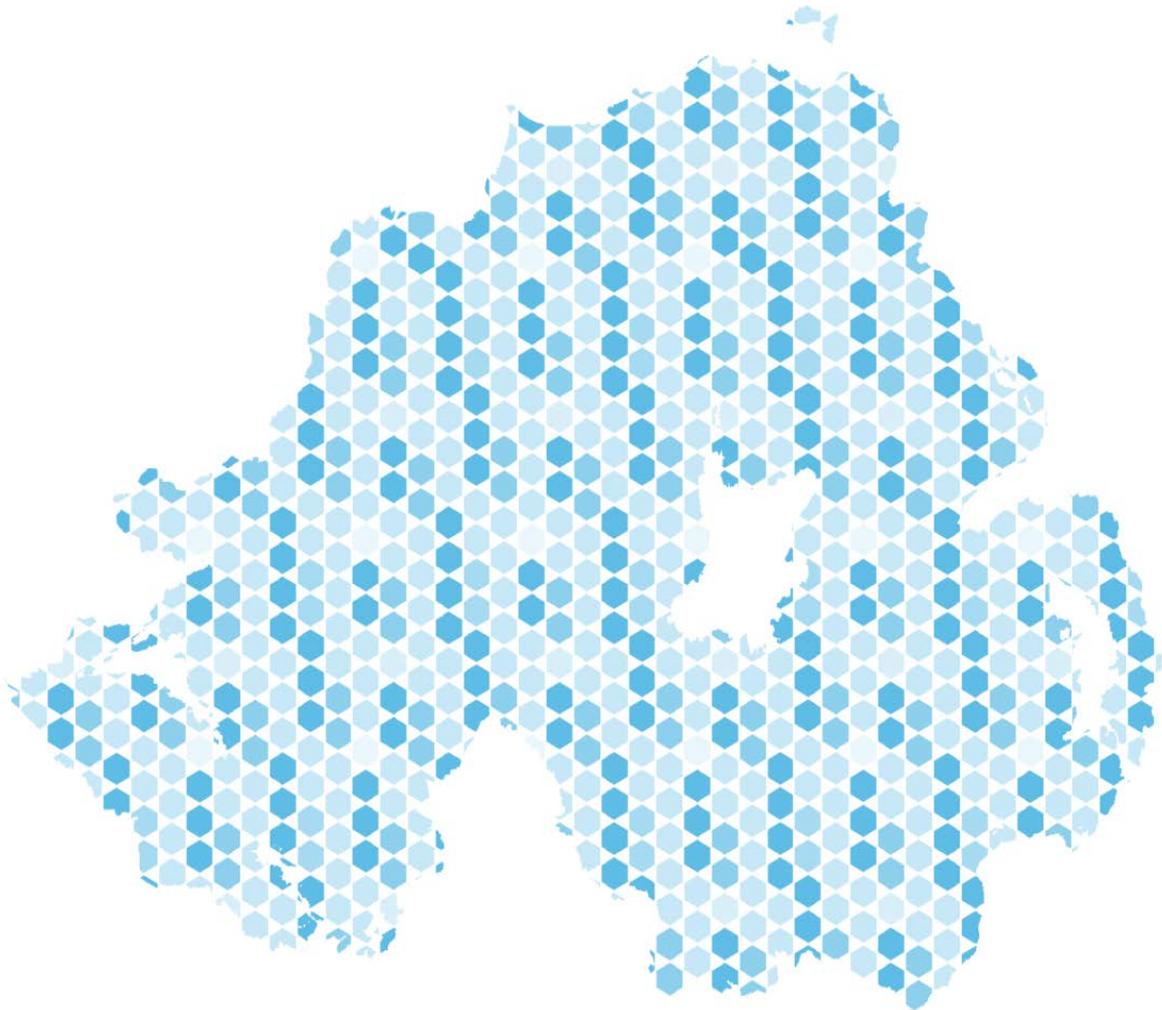


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Orangefield Primary School,
Belfast

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 Orangefield Primary, Belfast (101-0273)

Introduction

The previous inspection in June 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Orangefield Primary School as very good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 25 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 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

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 provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- the development of an extended range of writing types across the curriculum; and
- the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to enhance the children's literacy skills.

Key findings

- The samples of the children's work reflected a wide range of writing forms across each year group. The standard of the children's writing was very good and they write for a range of audiences across the areas of learning. In discussion with a group year 7 children, they articulated clearly and demonstrated confidently an understanding and use of a range of digital tools across the curriculum.
- There is clear evidence of progress being made on the areas identified within the school development plan. Data is being used effectively to identify children who require additional support or who may be potentially underachieving. Wide-ranging monitoring and evaluation strategies are used by the co-ordinators and the staff share regularly their good practice.

¹ A school evaluated previously as very good has been reported as the school having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, 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. 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 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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