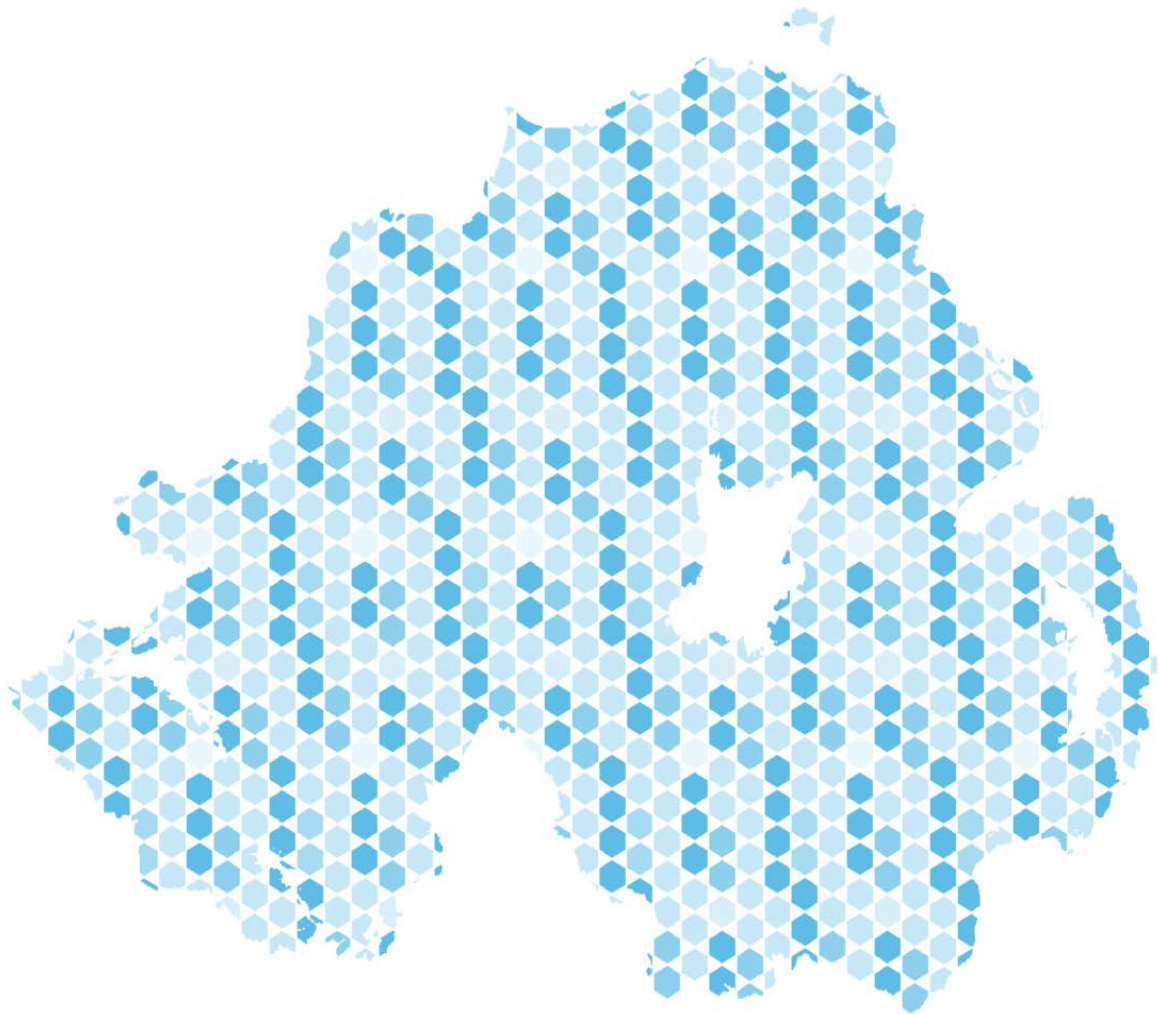


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Brigid's Primary School, Omagh,
County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in March 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 St Brigid's Primary School, Omagh, County Tyrone (203-2662)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Brigid's Primary School as very good¹. A new principal was appointed in November 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection was conducted on 21 March, 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 and 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 bring about improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines of enquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

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 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 chairperson and designated governor for safeguarding and child protection are due to undertake update training on 29 March 2017;

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.

- the involvement of the children in the school rule-making process; and
- the refresh of the school website information, including the replacement of the school prospectus.

The group of children from years 6 and 7 report that they feel happy and safe in school and know whom to contact if they have any concerns about their 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.

Health and Safety

1. The governors have made a minor works application to the Education Authority to secure the rear perimeter access to the school ; this work needs to be progressed.

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