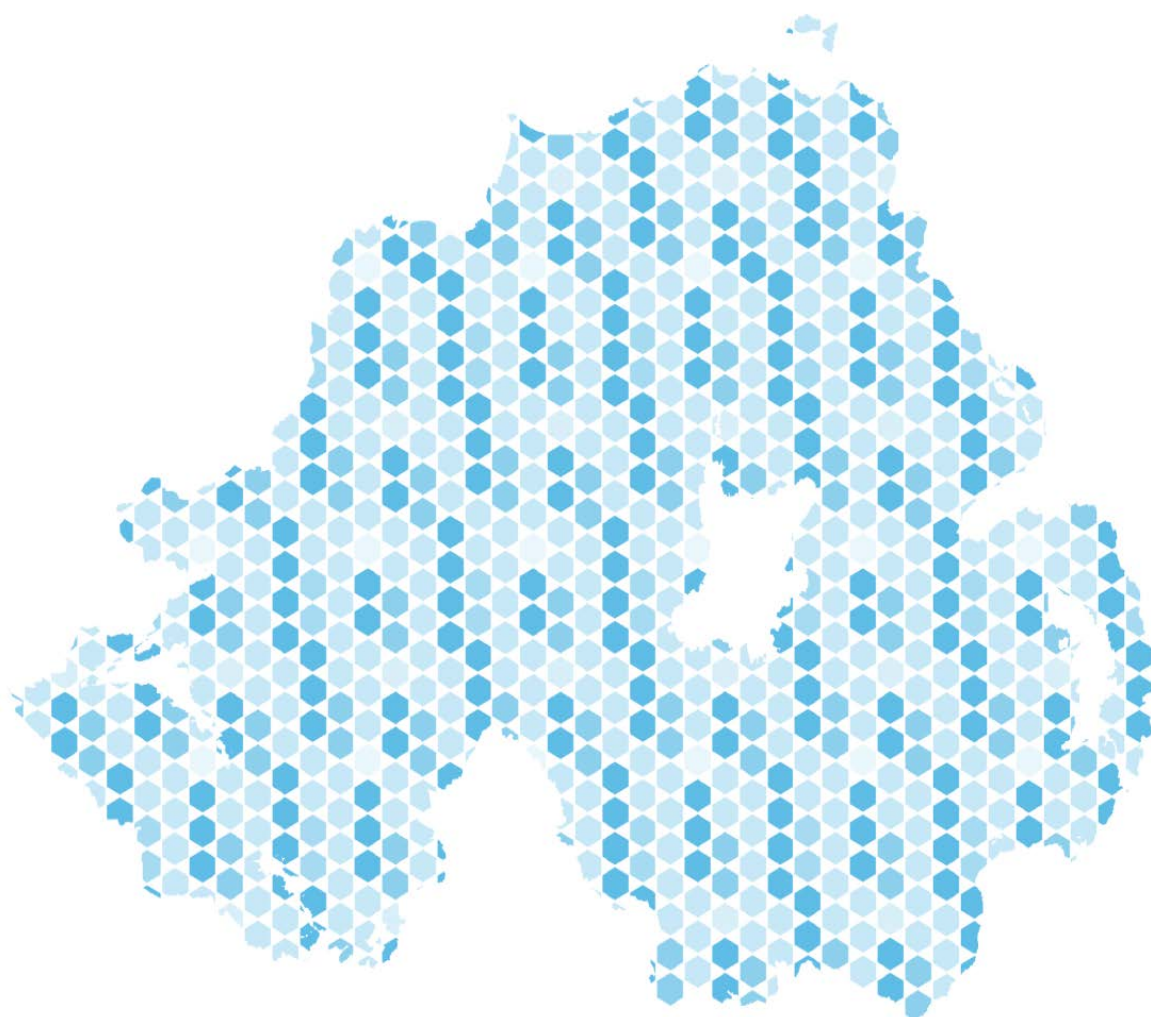


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Malachy's Primary School,  
Coleraine, County Derry

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement  
Inspection (Involving Action Short of  
Strike) in June 2017



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CUSTOMER  
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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Malachy's Primary School, Coleraine, County Derry (303-2297)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in March 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Malachy's Primary School as good<sup>1</sup>. Since the last inspection, the number of newcomer children remains steady at approximately one third of the register, while the school enrolment shows a slowly declining trend over the past four years. A new principal has been appointed and is in post since September 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 1 June 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**

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 inquiry 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. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> From September 2015, 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 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

### Health and safety

Work on aspects of securing the school has been undertaken recently, the following aspects need to be completed:

- additional gated access and fencing is required to further secure the side of the school building.

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