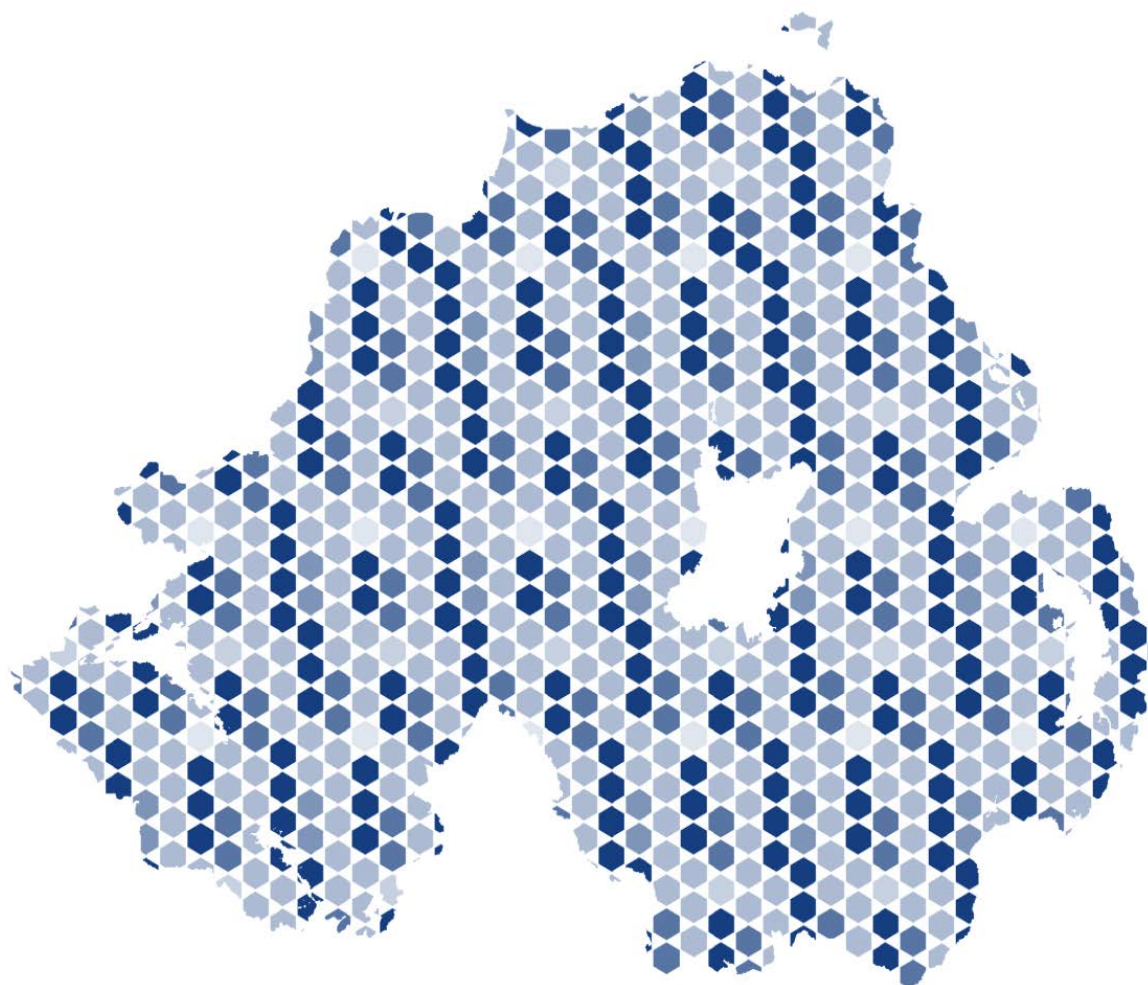


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Mary's Christian Brothers'
Grammar School, Belfast

Voluntary grammar, all-boys' school

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in November 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 Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Belfast (142-0021)

Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 22 November 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, senior teachers and the principal would not be co-operating with the inspectors. The ETI have 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
- neither a line of inquiry nor an area for improvement which the school needed to address from the original inspection were selected from the school 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 2014, namely to:

- sustain, and build on the improvements in both the quality of the pupils' learning experiences and their outcomes.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding pupils reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education. The pupils reported that they feel safe in school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns 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 action short of strike being taken by the teachers and the principal, 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.

¹ Since September 2015, a school previously evaluated as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

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