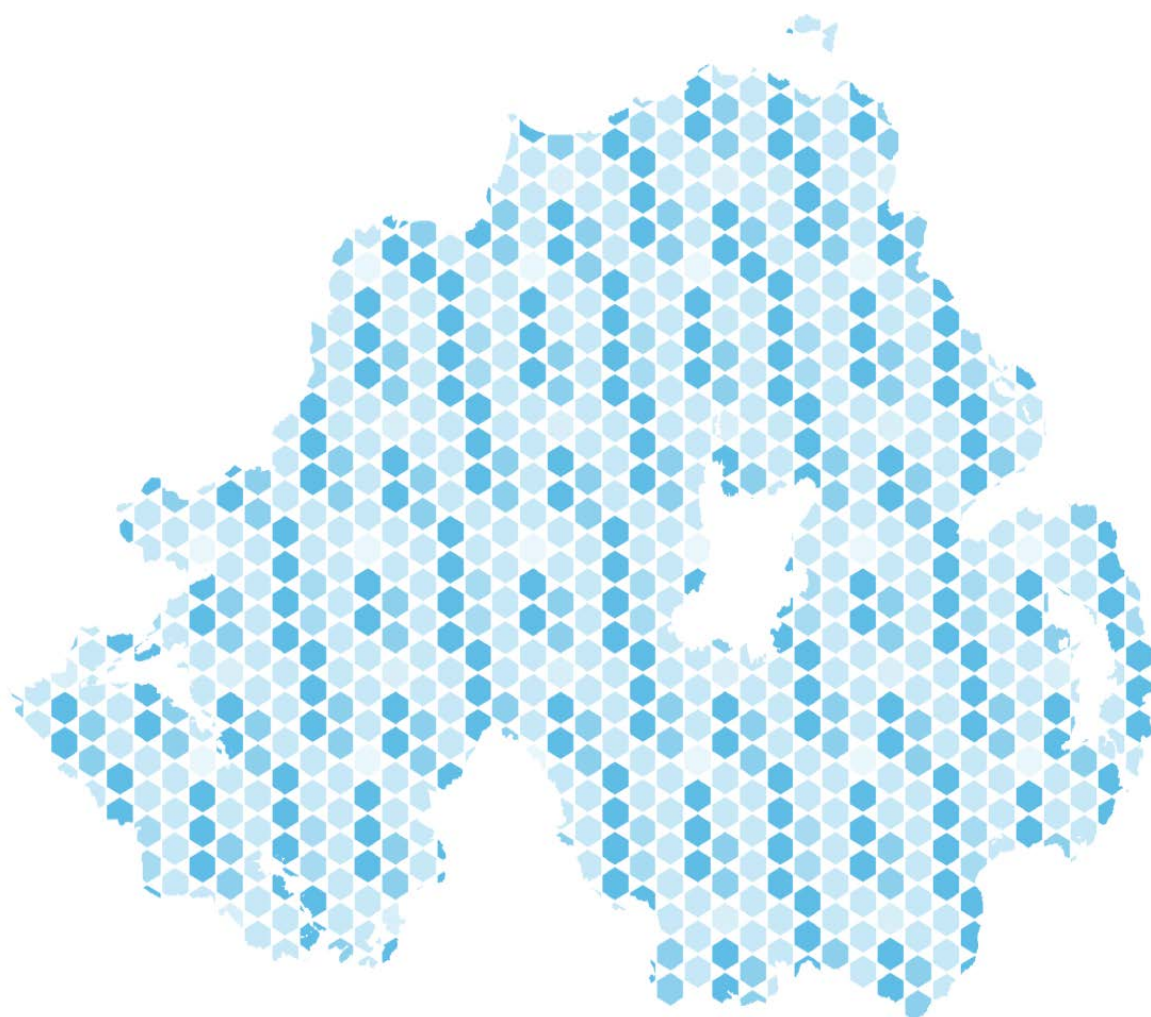


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Matthew's Primary School,
Limavady, County Londonderry

Maintained, 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 St Matthew's Primary School, Limavady, County Londonderry (203-2286)

Introduction

The previous inspection in October 2013, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Matthew's Primary School as 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

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; and
- the ETI was unable to evaluate the progress being made in addressing an area for improvement from the original inspection in 2013, namely, to develop a more strategic approach to aspects of the planning, monitoring and evaluation to improve further the provision and sustain the very good standards attained by the children.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines of inquiry, including the area for improvement which the school needed to address from the original inspection; 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.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements are in place for safeguarding the children.

The following areas require urgent improvement:

- the governors, including the chair and designated governor, require relevant training in relation to child protection and safeguarding;
- the school needs to put in place an online safety policy and complete work on the policy for relationships and sexuality education; and
- the arrangements for risk assessments need to be further developed.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the staff, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education and safeguarding being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

The ETI will return to the school within six working weeks to evaluate and report on the issues identified.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE SUSTAINING IMPROVEMENT INSPECTION OF ST MATTHEW'S PRIMARY SCHOOL IN MAY 2017

SAFEGUARDING

The ETI returned to the school on 15 September to monitor and report on arrangements for safeguarding.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to provide evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding; owing to action short of strike, the school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements were in place at the time of the inspection on 25 May 2017.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

The school continues to develop the outworking of the policy for relationships and sexuality education, including appropriate consultation with staff and parents.

Owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school, including having a conversation with the children.

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