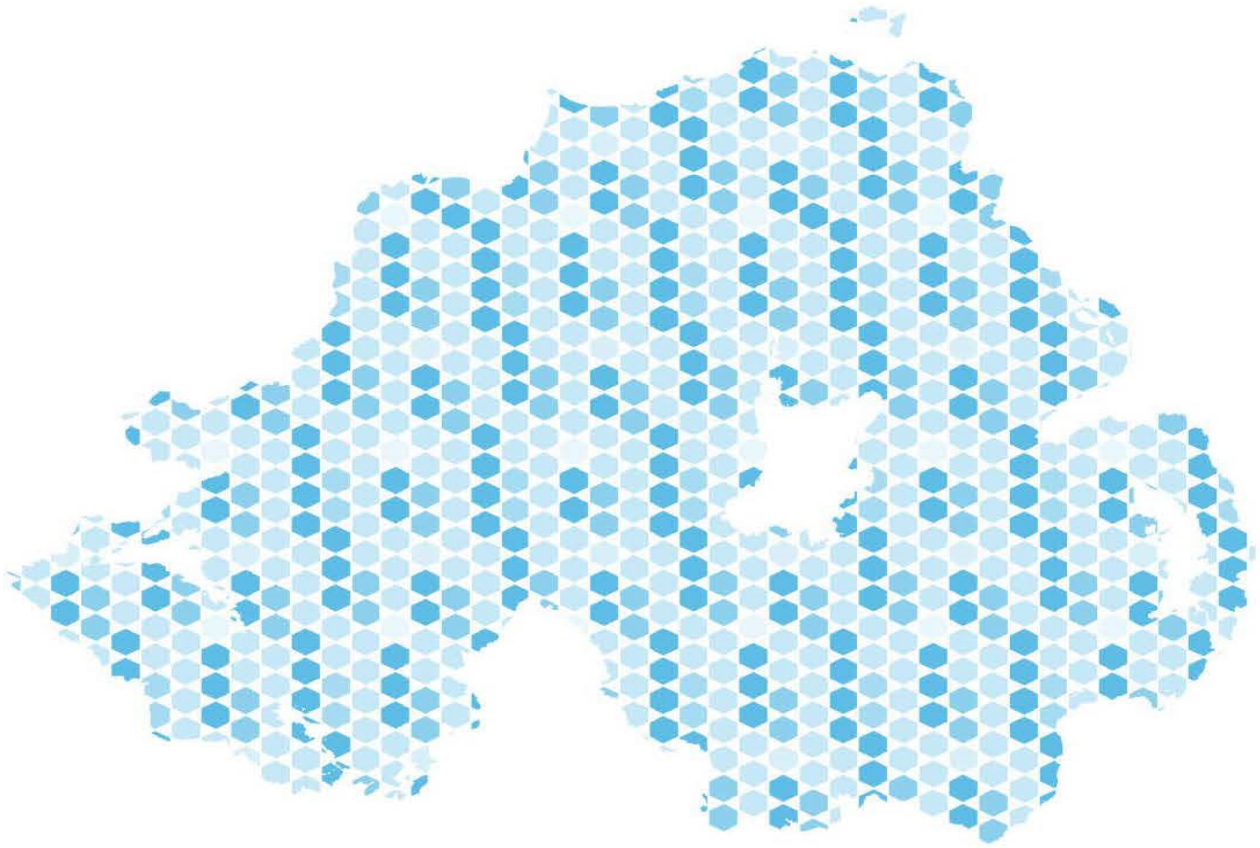


# Education and Training Inspectorate

## PRIMARY INSPECTION



### St Patrick's Primary School, Gortin, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (203-2676)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in March 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Patrick's Primary School, Gortin, County Tyrone (203-2676)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in February 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 20 March 2019.

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 principal co-operated with the inspection team in relation to safeguarding responsibilities. 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

## **Key findings**

- A group of year 6 and 7 children report that they have very good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities and roles of responsibility through the Eco- and School-Councils. The learning displays in the corridors and dining hall indicate that the school leadership places a high priority on the development of the children's personal development and empathy towards one another.
- A group of year 6 and 7 children report that they enjoy after-school activities, a range of sports and Irish language classes. The children have performed in a school concert for 'Grandparents Day' and they organised a sale to raise funds for a national charity.
- 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.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

### **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. A group of year 6 reported that they feel safe in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. The children expressed high levels of satisfaction with the care and support provided by all the staff.

### **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 being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

**Accommodation**

1. The solid door into the special needs room, located in a mobile classroom, requires a visibility panel.

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