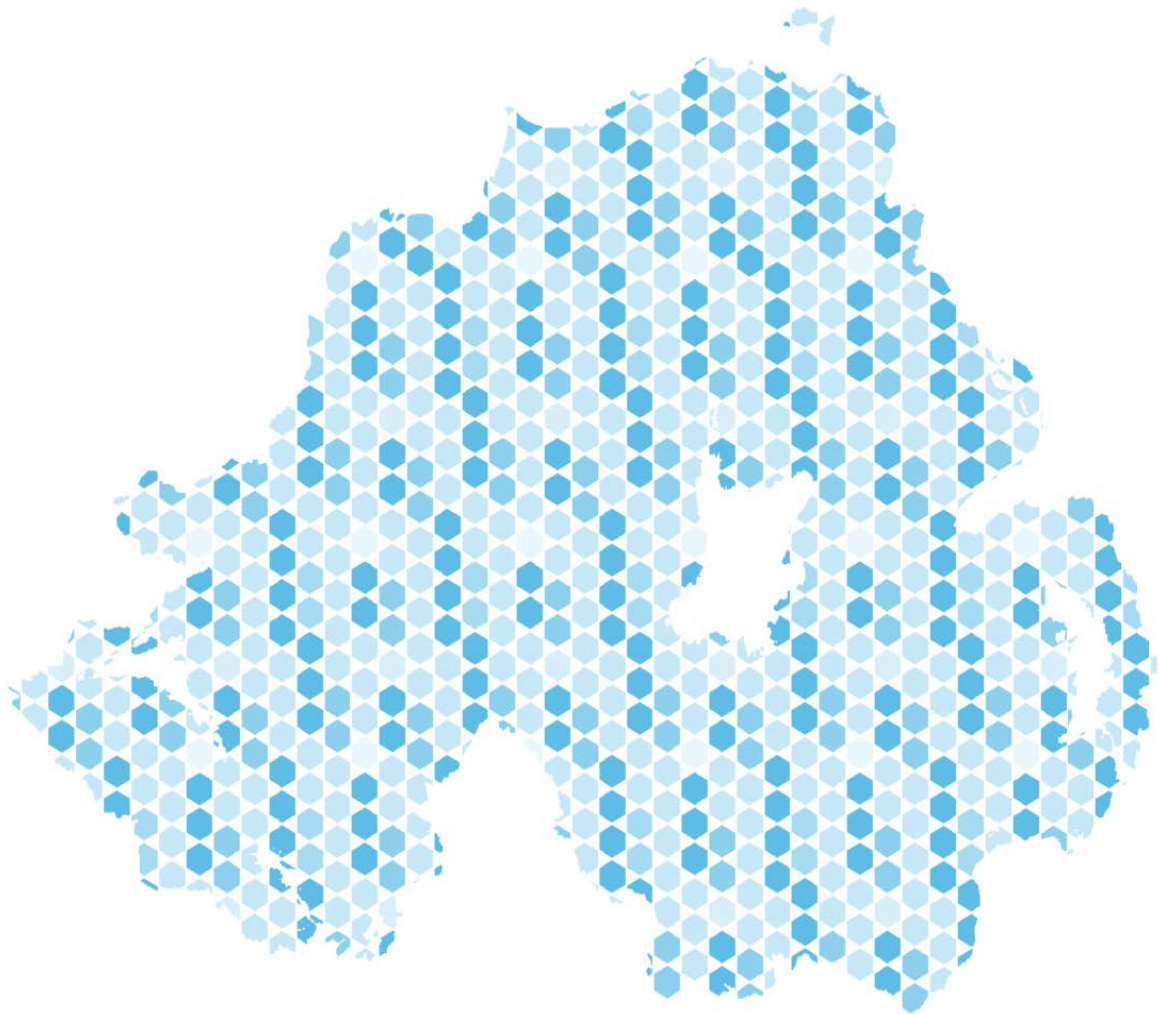


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Teresa's Primary School,
Loughmacrory, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in May 2018



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 Teresa's Primary School, Loughmacrory, County Tyrone (203-2731)

Introduction

The previous inspection in May 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Teresa's Primary School as very good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 17 May 2018.

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 the teachers, including the principal, would not be co-operating fully 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The children reported that they: have access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities; benefit from the positive school rewards system; and, have opportunities to take on leadership roles in the School and Eco-Councils. The children have a good understanding of the importance of taking responsibility for themselves and others.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the line of inquiry; and
- 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. The draft Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Policy is under review. A group of children from 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.

¹From September 2015, a school evaluated previously as very good has been reported as the school demonstrating a high level of capacity to identify and sustain improvement.

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 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.

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