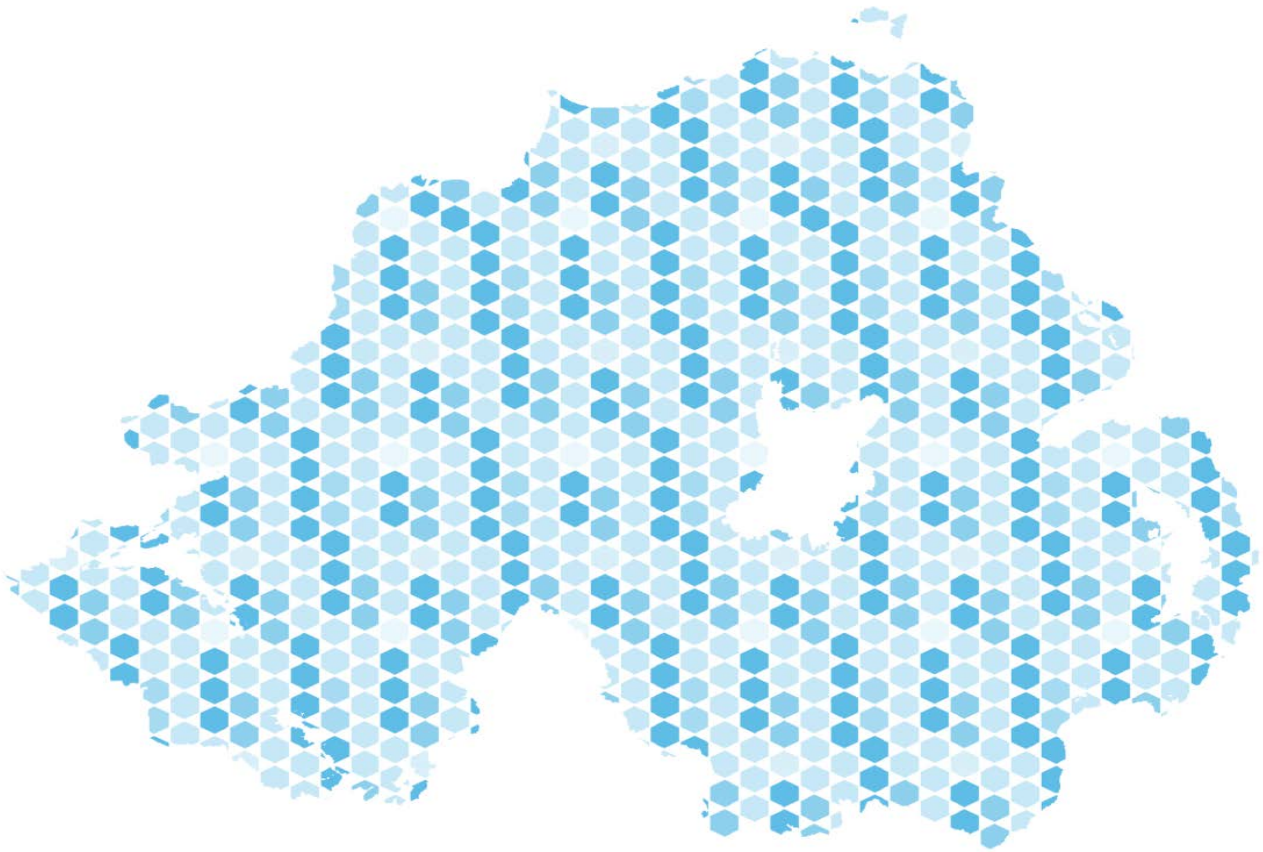


Education and Training Inspectorate PRIMARY INSPECTION



The Wallace High School Preparatory Department, Lisburn,
County Antrim

Preparatory school DE Ref No: 462-0051

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

eti

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Introduction

The previous inspection in May 2013 evaluated the overall effectiveness of The Wallace High School Preparatory Department as very good. The school took part in the pilot of the sustaining improvement inspection (SII) in June 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 23 September 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 almost all of the teachers would not be co-operating with the inspection. The senior leadership co-operated with the inspection team in relation to their 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

- The group of year 6 children report that they have very good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through, for example, the 'pupil council' and 'playground pals' and also their roles as house captains. The children are very proud of their school and appreciate the wide range of extra-curricular, sporting and creative arts experiences available to them.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- a 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 children report that they feel safe in school and that they are aware what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. 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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