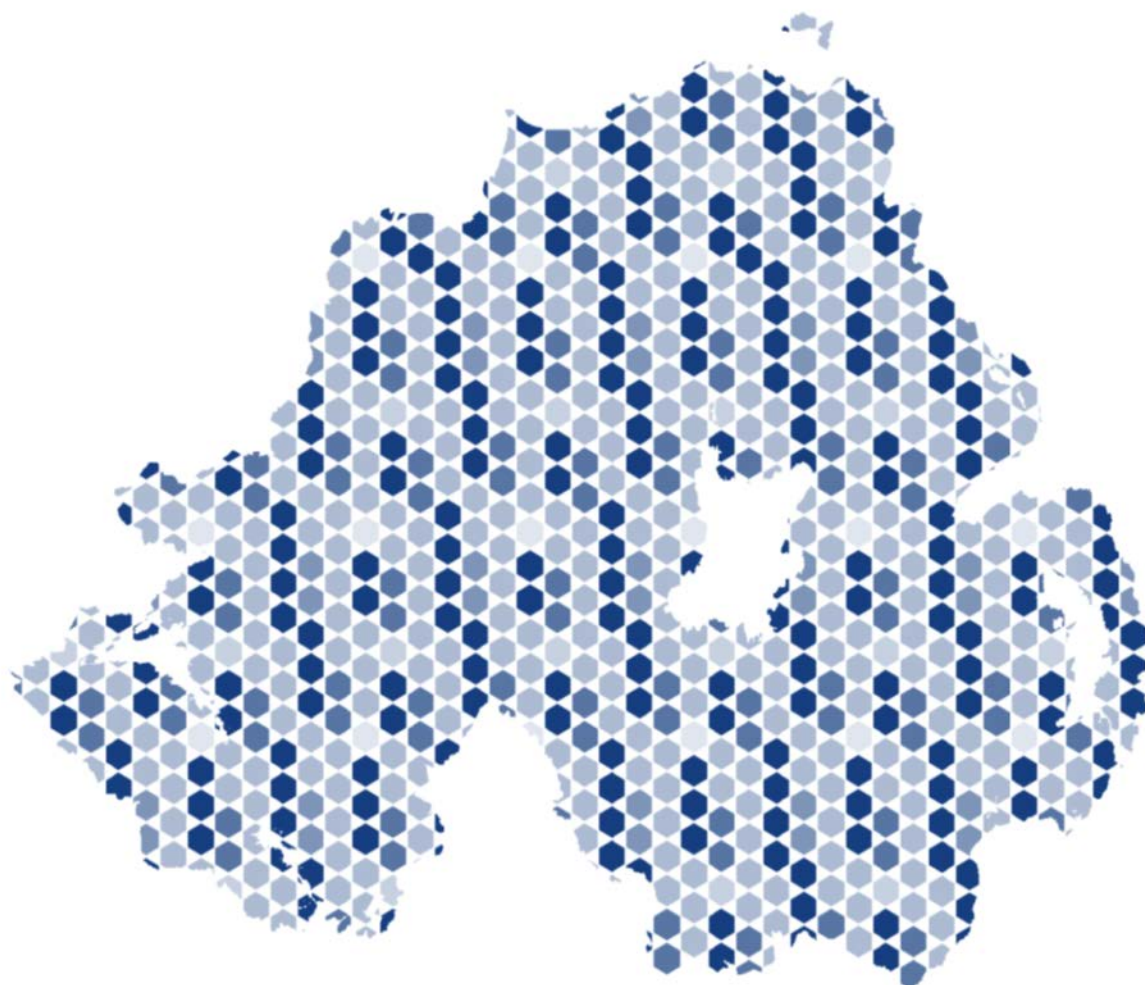


Education and Training Inspectorate

POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Kevin's College, Lisnaskea, County Fermanagh

Maintained, non-selective, co-educational 11-18 school DE Ref No (223-0322)

Report of a Baseline Monitoring Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in April 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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Baseline Monitoring Inspection of St Kevin's College, Lisnaskea (223-0322)

Introduction

St Kevin's College opened in September 2017 as a result of a joint development proposal to cease provision at St Comhghall's College, Lisnaskea and St Eugene's College, Roslea with the purpose of creating a new co-educational school. The school operates on the former St Comhghall's College site and engages in a shared education programme with a post-primary school in County Cavan.

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 principal, vice-principal and some support staff would be co-operating with the inspection. 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

The purpose of the baseline monitoring inspection was to evaluate the school's action to effect improvement and its impact on learning and teaching and outcomes for pupils. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

During the inspection, a line of inquiry was selected from the priorities identified in the school development plan and the school was asked to demonstrate how the actions taken have led to improvement for the pupils. The line of inquiry focused on the school's actions to:

- establish a clear vision, culture and ethos for St Kevin's College.

Owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking and impact of the identified actions associated with the line of inquiry.

Views of parents and staff

Six percent of the parents (33) and 57% of the staff (59) responded to the online questionnaire. All of the parents who responded to the questionnaire report that they support the school's vision. Almost all of the parents indicated: that their child is making good progress; that the school helps their child to understand and respect all people; and that the amalgamation of the school is being well led and managed.

Almost all of the responses from the staff were positive and indicated that they: set appropriately high standards for the pupils; and review regularly the pupils' work and provide guidance on how they can make progress. They acknowledged that staff with specific responsibilities carry out their duties effectively and contribute to the development of the school.

Any issues arising from the questionnaire returns were discussed with the principal and the representatives of the governors.

Key findings

- The staff, senior leaders and the representatives of the governors who met with inspectors were highly positive about the well-planned establishment of the new school which began with a phased approach in September 2016. They also indicated how the care, welfare and attainment of the pupils is central to all aspects of the life and work of the school. The school's emphasis on promoting the core values of respect, compassion, justice and community was evidenced by discussions with pupils across the key stages.
- Pupils who met with inspectors reported that they are well cared for and supported in their learning; they appreciate, in particular, the mentoring provided across the key stages and the culture of high expectation. They spoke positively about their roles and responsibilities in contributing meaningfully to decision making in relation to the school culture and identity. The pupils, particularly at key stage 4 and post-16, also reported that there is an appropriate and wide range of subject choices available to meet their interests, needs and career progression pathways.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education. In discussions with the inspectors, the pupils reported that they feel safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned 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 the action short of strike being taken by almost all of the teachers the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, and the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the pupils. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

Health and Safety

1. There is insufficient classroom and specialist accommodation to meet fully the needs of all of the pupils.
2. There is no fire exit on the first floor hospitality corridor.
3. There are insufficient toilet facilities for pupils in the school.

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