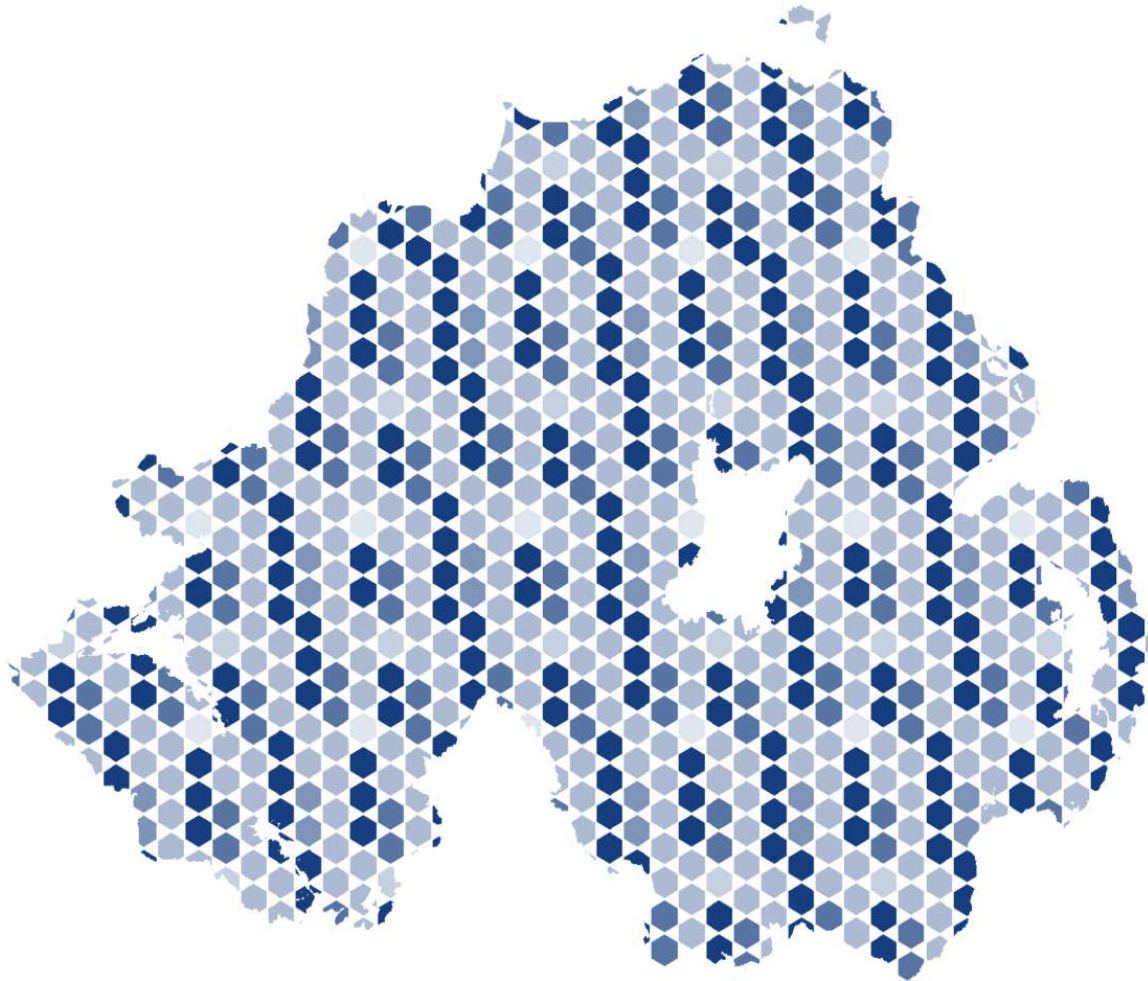


Education and Training Inspectorate

POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Drumglass High School, Dungannon, County Tyrone

11-16, co-educational, non-selective school DE Ref No: 521-0231

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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Introduction

The previous inspection in June 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Drumglass High School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. In the interim, the enrolment has increased steadily and now stands at 377 pupils. The school is engaged in a shared education partnership with two other post-primary schools.

A sustaining improvement inspection was carried out in November 2019.

The trade unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute, and also workload and other management issues. The industrial action includes non-co-operation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that none of the teaching staff would be co-operating with the inspection. The leadership co-operated with the inspection in relation to safeguarding responsibilities. The ETI has a statutory duty to monitor, inspect and report on the standards of education and professional practice among teachers 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.

The school provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

Key findings

- Pupils from both key stages spoke confidently and positively about their learning across the curriculum, including their enjoyment of the shared education and extra-curricular activities. The pupils articulated maturely how they are supported by the staff to set targets for their learning, and to reflect on and improve their work. The older pupils explained how they have gained confidence and developed wider skills, such as leadership and teamwork, through taking on a range of roles and responsibilities.
- It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff continue to 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 pupils and the staff.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- a 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 pupils reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. 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. The pupils report that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.

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 pupils. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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