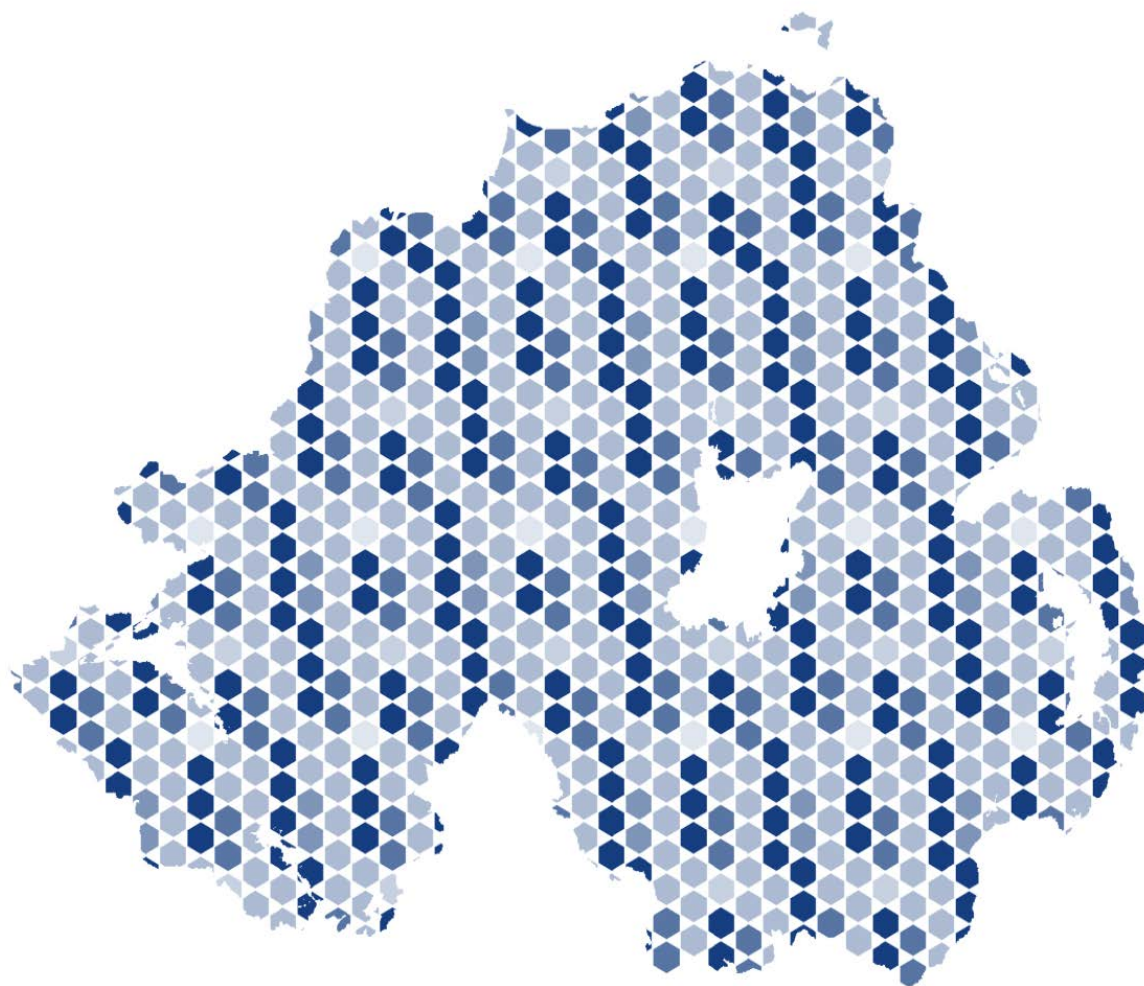


# Education and Training Inspectorate

## POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Lisnagarvey High School, Lisburn, County Antrim

Controlled, selective, 11-18 DE Ref No (421- 0051)

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Lisnagarvey High School, Lisburn, County Antrim (421-0051)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in December 2015<sup>1</sup> evaluated the overall effectiveness of Lisnagarvey High School as demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the pupils. In the interim period, there have been appointments to the senior leadership team (SLT), including through secondments. The school enrolment has increased significantly and the school has been oversubscribed for the past four years. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted in May 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 the principal and vice-principal 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 SII was to evaluate the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The line of inquiry during the SII was the school's actions to:

- continue to improve the outcomes for pupils at key stage (KS) 4 in English and mathematics through effective tracking and monitoring systems.

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.

## **Key findings**

The school's evaluations, including internal and external data, indicate that the tracking and monitoring systems and the attendance and support programmes continue to support improved outcomes at KS 4 and post-16.

The outcomes in public examinations at KS 4 and post-16 are a strength of the school, including for those pupils with free school meal entitlement.

Over the past three years, the proportion of year 14 pupils progressing to higher education has steadily increased, and in 2018, a majority of year 14 pupils progressed to higher education.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/follow-up-inspection-lisnagarvey-high-school-lisburn.pdf>

During the inspection, groups of pupils from across the key stages spoke positively about the support they receive from their teachers, the intervention strategies used in class to progress their learning, and how the tracking systems and target setting are used well to encourage and motivate them with their work. The ETI was unable to evaluate the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

The active Parent-Teacher Association is very supportive of the teaching and learning in the school and the high standards the pupils attain. They use their challenge function to provide constructive feedback on the implementation of key policies, for example, the discipline policy and the anti-bullying policy, in order to support SLT in meeting the changes due to the increasing enrolment and the varying needs and abilities of the pupils.

### **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding pupils reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The school needs to continue to review and update governor training and key policies including the anti-bullying, the positive behaviour, and the relationships and sexuality education policies. 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 welfare. 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 action short of strike being taken by the teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality education provided for the pupils. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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