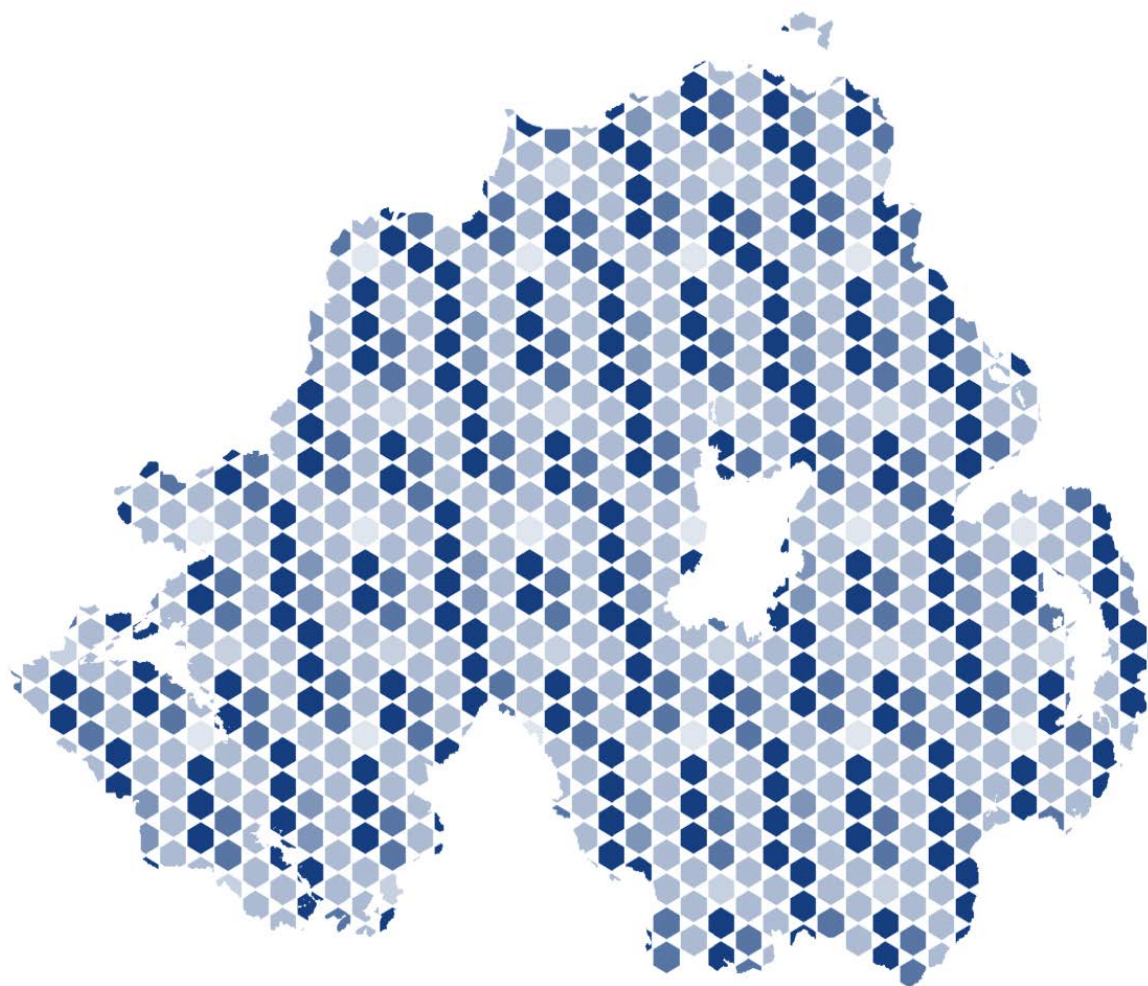


Education and Training Inspectorate

POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Patrick's Co-educational Comprehensive College, Maghera, County Derry

11-19, maintained, bilateral school DE Ref No (323-0234)

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Patrick's Co-educational Comprehensive College, Maghera, County Derry (323-0234)

Introduction

The previous inspection in November 2015¹ evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's Co-educational Comprehensive College as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. In the interim period, a new principal has been appointed and the senior leadership team has been restructured.

A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted in April 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 only the principal and vice-principal, who is also the designated teacher for safeguarding, would be co-operating with the inspection in relation to safeguarding. 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

- In discussion with groups of pupils, they reported that they enjoy their lessons and the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities provided and value the support of the staff. The pupils who met with inspectors discussed recent developments in relation to promoting positive behaviour through an emphasis on being "*ready, respectful and safe*"; they report that these developments are working well and encouraging them to do their best. Members of the Key Stage 3 pupil leadership team discussed their roles and duties; the pupils reported that they feel empowered and more confident as a result of the responsibilities with which they are entrusted.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- any line of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

¹ https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/post-primary-inspection-st-patricks-college-maghera_0.pdf

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding pupils reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The pupils report that they feel safe and happy in school and know what to do if they have any concerns 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 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.

Health and safety/Accommodation

- While the school has carried out risk assessments with risk reduction measures, the access points to and within both school sites require immediate attention.

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