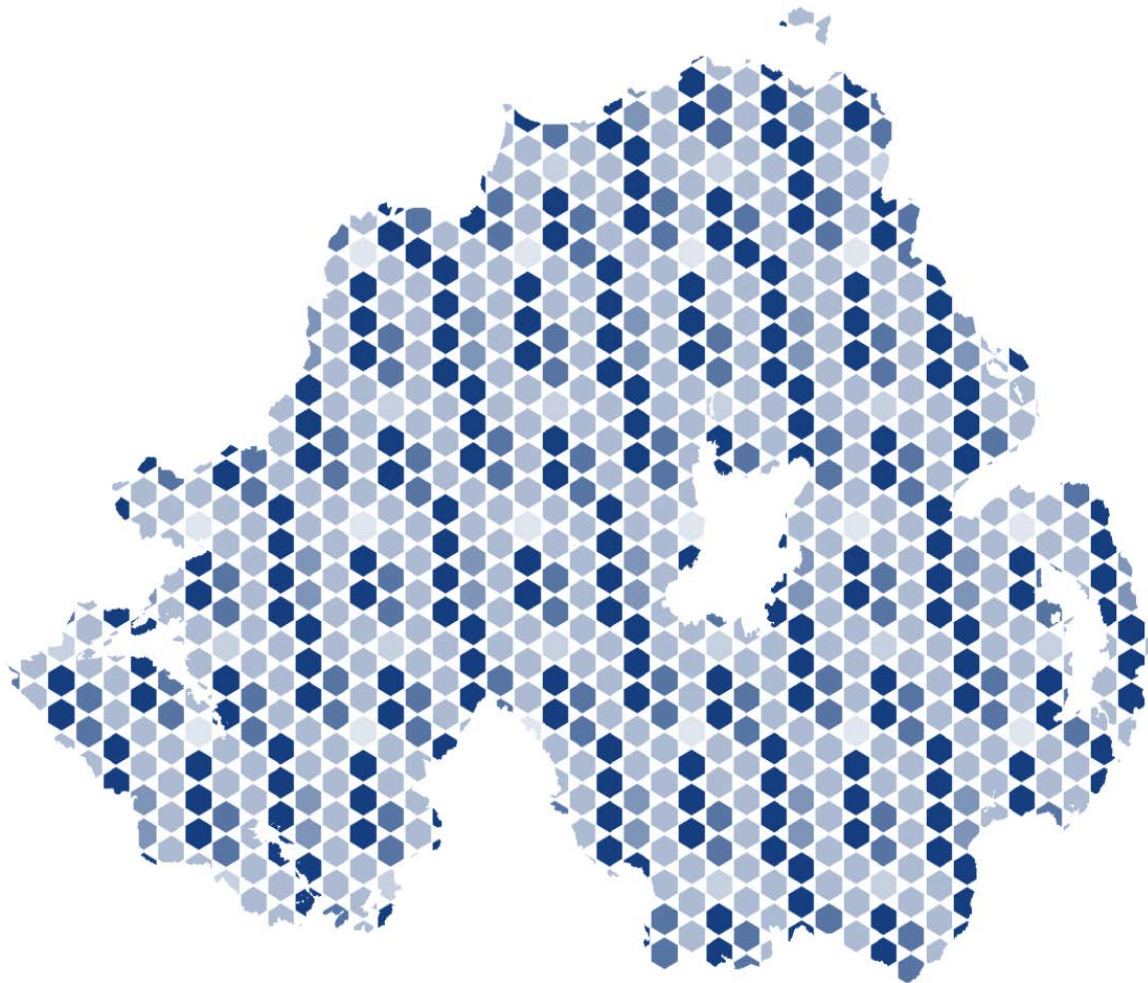


# Education and Training Inspectorate POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



## Ulidia Integrated College, Carrickfergus, County Antrim

Grant maintained, co-educational, all-ability integrated school DE Ref No (326-0299)

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



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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Ulidia Integrated College, Carrickfergus, County Antrim (326-0299)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in April 2016<sup>1</sup> evaluated the overall effectiveness of Ulidia Integrated College as demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

In the interim, there have been appointments at senior and middle leadership level. Consequently, the roles and responsibilities of senior and middle leaders have been aligned more strategically to the school development plan priorities.

School enrolment has increased and now stands at 642 pupils; three classrooms and a toilet block have been added to the school building.

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 senior leadership team and some middle leaders 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 the provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were the school's actions to develop further:

- the quality and consistency of lessons, including planning for differentiation in order to improve outcomes for all learners; and
- the leadership capacity and whole-school experience of middle leaders.

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 lines of inquiry.

### **Key findings**

- The proportion of pupils attaining five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A\* to C, including English and mathematics has risen steadily over the past three years and is now significantly above the Northern Ireland (NI) average for similar schools<sup>2</sup>. While the proportion of pupils attaining any five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A\* to C is below the NI average, the school has implemented actions to address these outcomes.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/post-primary-inspection-ulidia-integrated-college-carrickfergus-county-antrim\\_0.pdf](https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/post-primary-inspection-ulidia-integrated-college-carrickfergus-county-antrim_0.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> In the same free school meal band.

- The proportion of those pupils entitled to free school meals who attain five or more GCSEs or equivalent at grades A\* to C, including English and mathematics, has increased and is now well above the NI average.
- At post-16, the pupils continue to attain well.
- The school has prioritised middle leadership capacity building, with a bespoke programme of continued professional development. A group of middle leaders have been leading on aspects of whole-school improvement to address the school development plan priorities.
- Inspectors met with groups of pupils from key stages 3 and 4. The pupils spoke positively of the support they receive from their teachers and outlined how the tracking system helps them understand the progress they are making and set personal targets for improvement. They discussed how they are rewarded for contributing positively to their own learning and aspects of school life. The ETI was unable to evaluate the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

### **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding pupils reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The school has identified the need to review several of the policies to reflect the most recent guidance and ensure that all of the governors receive the appropriate training in order to perform fully their roles. In discussion with the inspectors, the pupils reported that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. 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 almost all of the teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education provided for the pupils. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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