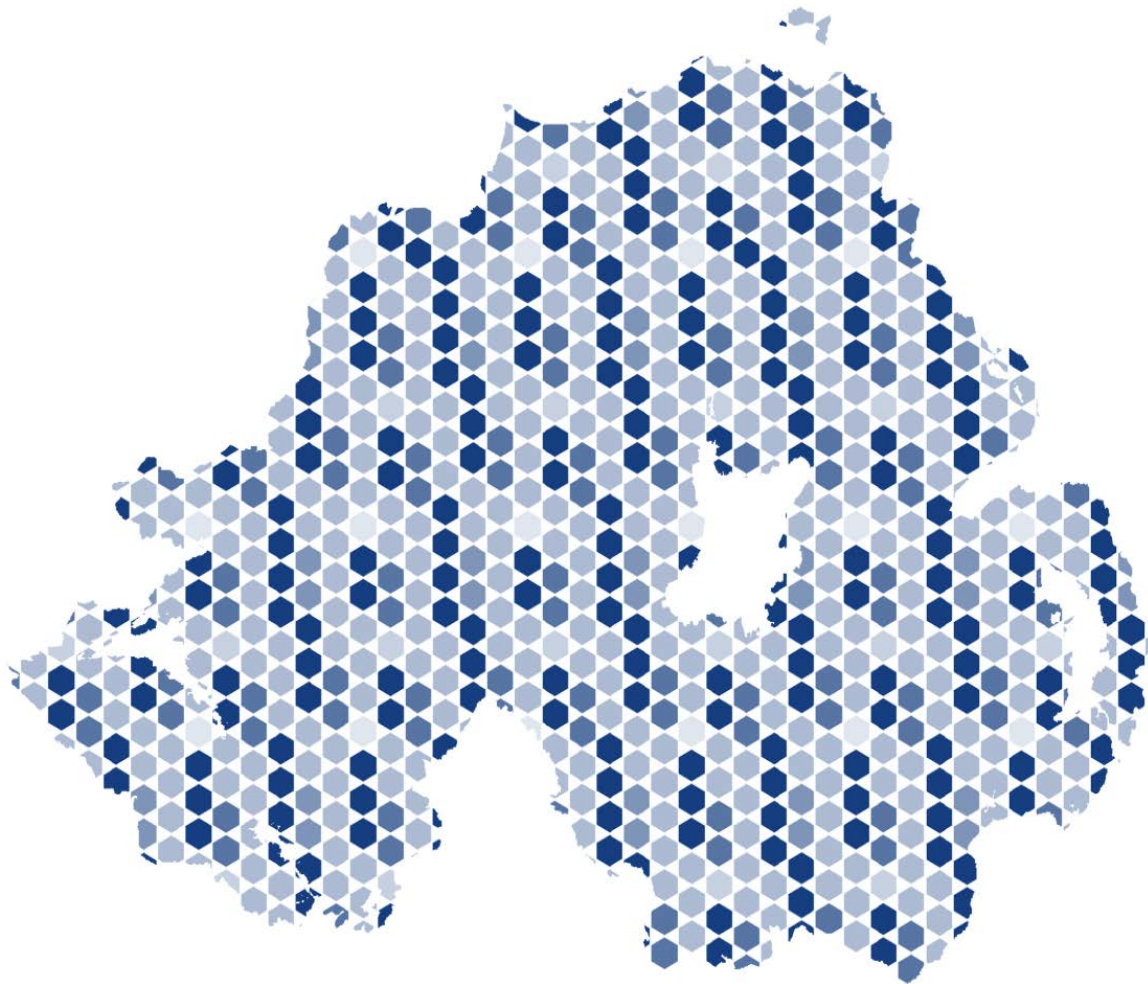


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Movilla High School,
Newtownards, County Down

Controlled, co-educational non-selective 11-18 school

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
(Involving Action Short of Strike)
in May 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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SECOND FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF MOVILLA HIGH SCHOOL, COUNTY DOWN, BT23 7HA (421-0012)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out a follow-up inspection (FUI) of Movilla High School in November 2015¹ which concluded that the school needed to address urgently significant areas for improvement identified in the interests of all the learners. As a result, the school remained in the follow-up process.

The main areas for improvement identified in the inspection included the need:

- to raise the standards achieved by the pupils in public examinations, and in their acquisition and application of wider skills and dispositions;
- to improve the quality of the learning and teaching;
- to improve further the arrangements for the pastoral care and support of the pupils, in particular by implementing more effective strategies to engage the pupils in their learning; and
- for the senior leaders to evaluate more rigorously the impact of the work done to effect improvement.

The Department of Education entered the school into the Formal Intervention Process under the Every School a Good School² policy on 10 February 2014; following the first FUI in November 2015, the school remained in the Formal Intervention Process.

The school's action plans focused on the areas for improvement identified at the first FUI inspection.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up inspection visit (IFuV) in October 2016 and the progress being made in the areas for improvement was discussed with the school. A second FUI was conducted in May 2018.

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 ETI. Prior to the follow-up inspection, the school informed the ETI that there would be no co-operation 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 second FUI proceeded and the following evaluations are based on the evidence as made available at the time of the inspection.

Views of parents and staff

As a result of the action short of strike, the re-issued online questionnaire information was not distributed to parents and staff. Therefore it is not possible to report on the views of parents and staff.

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/follow-inspection-movilla-high-school-newtownards>

² <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/every-school-good-school-policy-school-improvement>

Key Findings

Representatives of the board of governors met with inspectors and expressed their appreciation for the work of the leadership and staff and shared some of their concerns for the future educational provision for pupils.

Owing to action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate the extent to which the areas for improvement, identified at the first FUI inspection, have been addressed; namely:

- to raise the standards achieved by the pupils in public examinations, and in their acquisition and application of wider skills and dispositions;
- to improve the quality of the learning and teaching;
- to improve further the arrangements for the pastoral care and support of the pupils, in particular by implementing more effective strategies to engage the pupils in their learning; and
- for the senior leaders to evaluate more rigorously the impact of the work done to effect improvement.

Consequently, there remains a need for Movilla High School to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners.

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff 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.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the principal and teachers, 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.

Further action will be considered by the Department of Education.

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