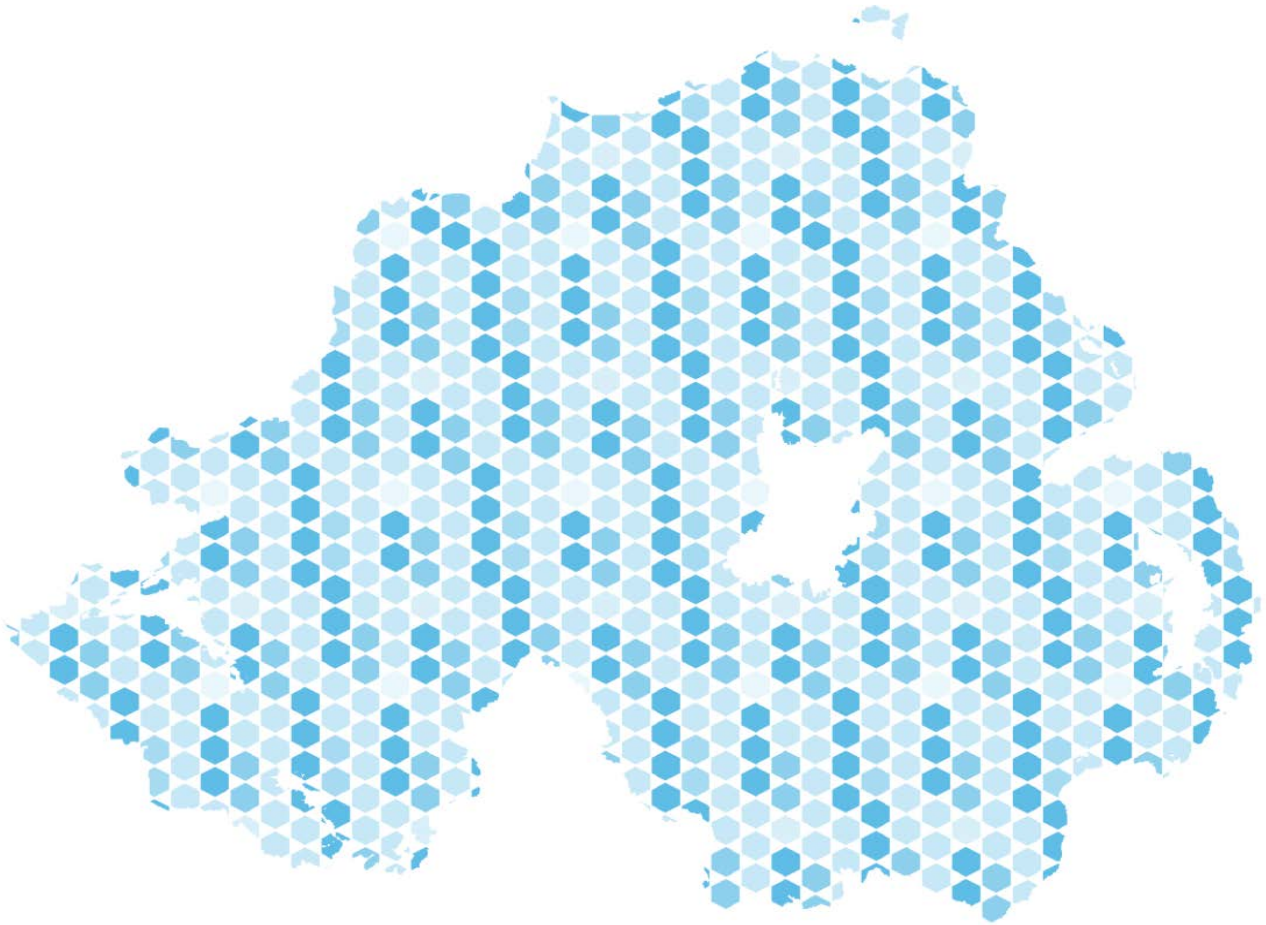


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Mary's Primary School,
Glasdrumman, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLASDRUMMAN, COUNTY DOWN, BT34 4QN (503-6001)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of St Mary's Primary School in June 2016¹, which concluded that the school needed to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were to:

- address the safeguarding and child protection issues;
- review the roles and responsibilities in the management structure to establish systematic monitoring and evaluation of the children's learning experiences and attainment in order to raise standards and improve the quality of learning and teaching; and
- strengthen the governance of the school.

As a consequence, the Department of Education entered the school into the Formal Intervention Process under the Every School a Good School² policy in July 2016.

The school's action plans were adjusted appropriately in light of the feedback given by the ETI. The school's development plan was also adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in June 2017 and a follow-up inspection 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 Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that most of the staff, would not be co-operating with the inspectors. 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.

In the interval since the original inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- an acting principal has been in post since April 2017;
- the co-ordinators' roles and responsibilities have been redistributed to include other areas of learning;
- the governors have been re-constituted and there is a new chairperson; link governors for literacy and numeracy are in place; and
- the governors and staff have availed of support from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Education Authority (EA).

¹ <https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/primary-inspection-st-marys-primary-school-glassdrumman-county-down.pdf>

² [Every school a good school - a policy for school improvement | Department of Education](#)

Key findings

- During the follow-up inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. In discussions with the inspectors, a group of year 6 children reported that they feel very safe and happy in school and know whom to talk to 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.
- The literacy and numeracy co-ordinators have a clearer understanding of their roles and responsibilities resulting in the development of a collegiate process for monitoring and evaluating the impact of staff development on the children's learning experiences. They now have an effective and systematic approach to reviewing the planning, and the children's outcomes, involving classroom observations and the collation and review of portfolios of the children's work.
- The representative of the board of governors reported that the governors now have a greater understanding of the challenge function regarding the development of school policies and the, quality of children's learning experiences and outcomes.

The ETI was unable to evaluate to the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

Owing to action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the following areas for improvement:

- to review the roles and responsibilities in the management structure to establish systematic monitoring and evaluation of the children's learning experiences and attainment in order to raise standards and improve the quality of learning and teaching; and
- to strengthen the governance of the school.

Consequently, there remains a need for St Mary's Primary School to address urgently the significant areas for improvement.

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 children. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

Further action will be considered by the Department of Education.

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