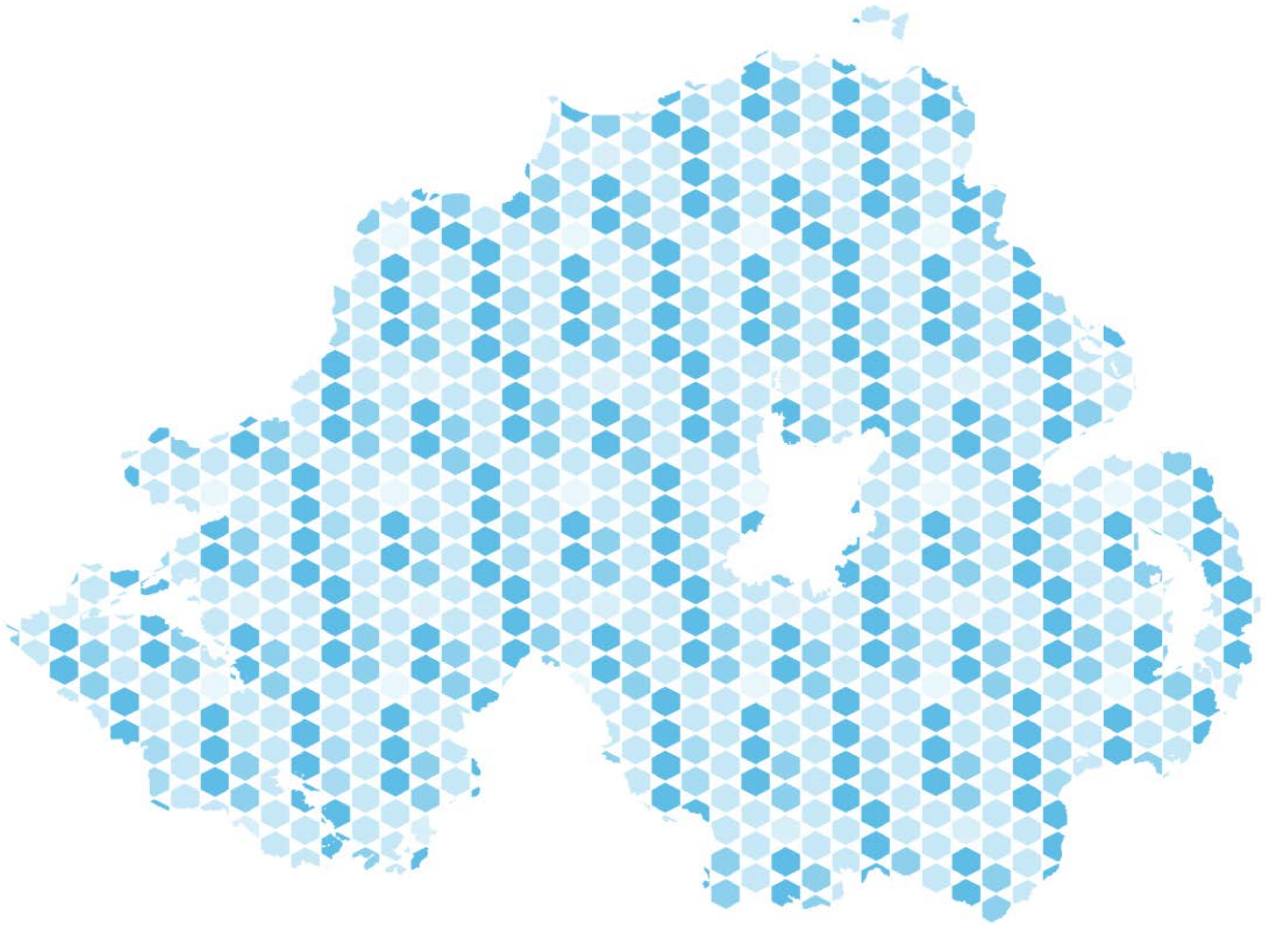


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

The Good Shepherd Primary
School, Belfast

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
(Involving Action Short of Strike) in
November 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL, BELFAST, BT17 0PJ (403-6285)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of The Good Shepherd Primary School in April 2016¹, which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement were to:

- continue to build the capacity of the senior leaders and co-ordinators to develop effective leadership and teamwork;
- monitor and evaluate effectively the impact of improvements in the children's experiences on their learning outcomes; and
- share and embed more consistently the effective practice within the school.

The school's action plans were of a good quality. The school's development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in October 2016 and a follow-up inspection in November 2017. During the follow-up inspection, the principal and chairperson of the board of governors met with the inspectors to discuss the improvement work that had taken place to address the aspects of leadership and management identified during the inspection as requiring improvement.

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 none of the teachers would 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 initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- the staff and governors have attended relevant training and received support from the Education Authority and Catholic Council for Maintained Schools (CCMS) on aspects of child protection, leadership and management and provision for learning;
- all of the staff and governors participated in an ethos and collaborative professional learning day;
- the skill set and expertise of the governors has been enhanced through the appointment of new governors;
- the senior leadership team has been restructured and specific pastoral and curricular roles have been agreed;

¹ [Primary Inspection - The Good Shepherd Primary School, Belfast | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

- a middle leadership team has been established;
- three curricular action teams have been created which incorporate all teaching staff;
- there has been a number of new teaching staff appointed;
- the approach to medium-term planning has been reviewed and updated;
- a more systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating learning and progression has been developed; and
- an agreed system has been put in place to facilitate the sharing of good practice throughout the school.

Key findings

Owing to action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the impact of actions taken or the extent to which the following areas for improvement have been addressed:

- to continue to build the capacity of the senior leaders and co-ordinators to develop effective leadership and teamwork;
- to monitor and evaluate effectively the impact of improvements in the children's experiences on their learning outcomes; and
- to share and embed more consistently the effective practice within the school.

Consequently, there remains a need for The Good Shepherd Primary School to address important areas for improvement.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the 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 of education being provided for the children. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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