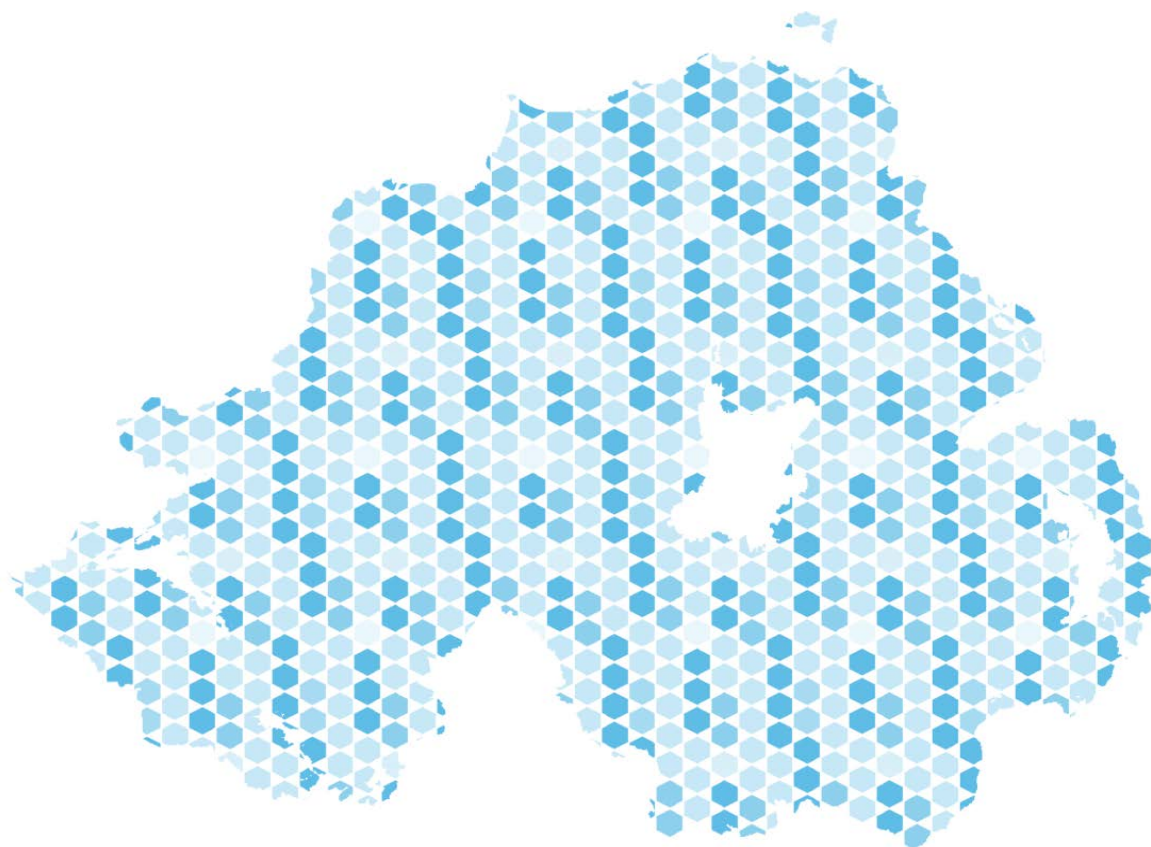


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Drumsallen Primary School,
Killylea, County Armagh

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Monitoring Inspection
(Involving Action Short of Strike)
in March 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Monitoring Inspection of Drumsallen Primary School, Killylea, County Armagh (501-1117)

Introduction

The aim of the Monitoring Inspection is to evaluate the extent to which the leadership and management uses self-evaluation effectively to inform the development planning process to bring about improvement. The outcome of the inspection will inform future inspection activity.

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 inspector regarding classroom observations and, in addition, none of the children's books or individual education plans would be made available. 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 available at the time of the inspection.

Focus of the inspection

The inspection focused on evaluating action to promote improvement and its impact on learning and teaching and outcomes for learners. During the inspection, lines of inquiry were selected from the development plan priorities; the school was asked to demonstrate if and how the actions taken have led to improvement for the learners. The lines of inquiry focused on the school's actions to:

- develop the children's talking and listening skills and raising levels of confidence when speaking to a range of audiences; and
- improve the children's understanding of mathematical concepts in number through the use of interactive and practical activities.

Key findings

- The school consults appropriately with stakeholders and uses well a combination of data and professional knowledge to set the priorities and actions to promote improvement. The concise actions plans are guiding well the school improvement agenda; and, the strategies to monitor, evaluate and measure the progress in meeting the expected outcomes are effective.
- The school's evidence indicates that all of the children are making appropriate progress in developing their talking and listening and, number skills.

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action, the inspection was unable to evaluate fully:

- the impact of the improvement work on the quality of learning and teaching and the outcomes for the children.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The children reported that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

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.

Health and Safety

1. The board of governors and senior leadership need to carry out a risk assessment to ensure that all access routes in and around the school are secure.

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