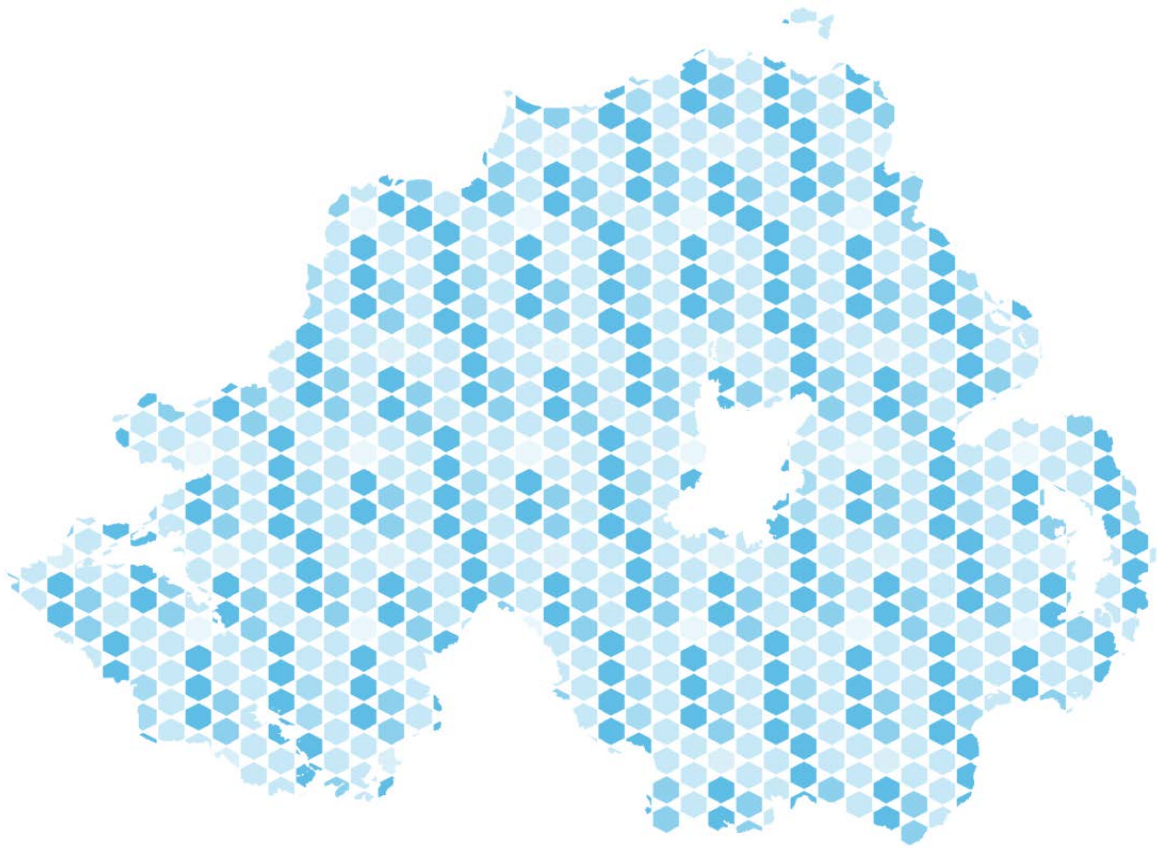


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St John's Primary School,
Gilford, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Monitoring Inspection
(Involving Action Short of Strike)
in January 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 St John's Primary School, County Down (503-1669)

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 all of the teachers, including the principal, 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.

Focus of the inspection

The ETI met with representatives of the governors who provided documentation and information in relation to the school development plan and associated school improvement actions and, safeguarding. The ETI also met with a group of children from year 7 to ascertain their knowledge and understanding of safeguarding practices in the school and how the staff ensure their health and well-being.

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to focus on evaluating action to promote improvement and its impact on learning and teaching and outcomes for learners;
- lines of inquiry were not selected from the development plan priorities; and
- the school did not demonstrate if and how the actions taken have led to improvement for the learners.

Key findings

The following findings are based on a review of documentation provided by, and discussions with, the chair and representatives of the board of governors and, a group of children from year 7.

- A group of children from year 7 report that they feel happy and safe in school and know who to contact if they have any concerns about their well-being.
- Safeguarding and the well-being of the children are given a high priority in the school development plan and there are many opportunities for the children to develop their leadership skills.
- The review of the priorities in the school development plan is not sufficiently evaluative and the targets are not underpinned by the school's qualitative and quantitative data. As a result, the targets in the action plans are not well focused and the evaluating strategies are not robust.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully, or discuss with staff, the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

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 children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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