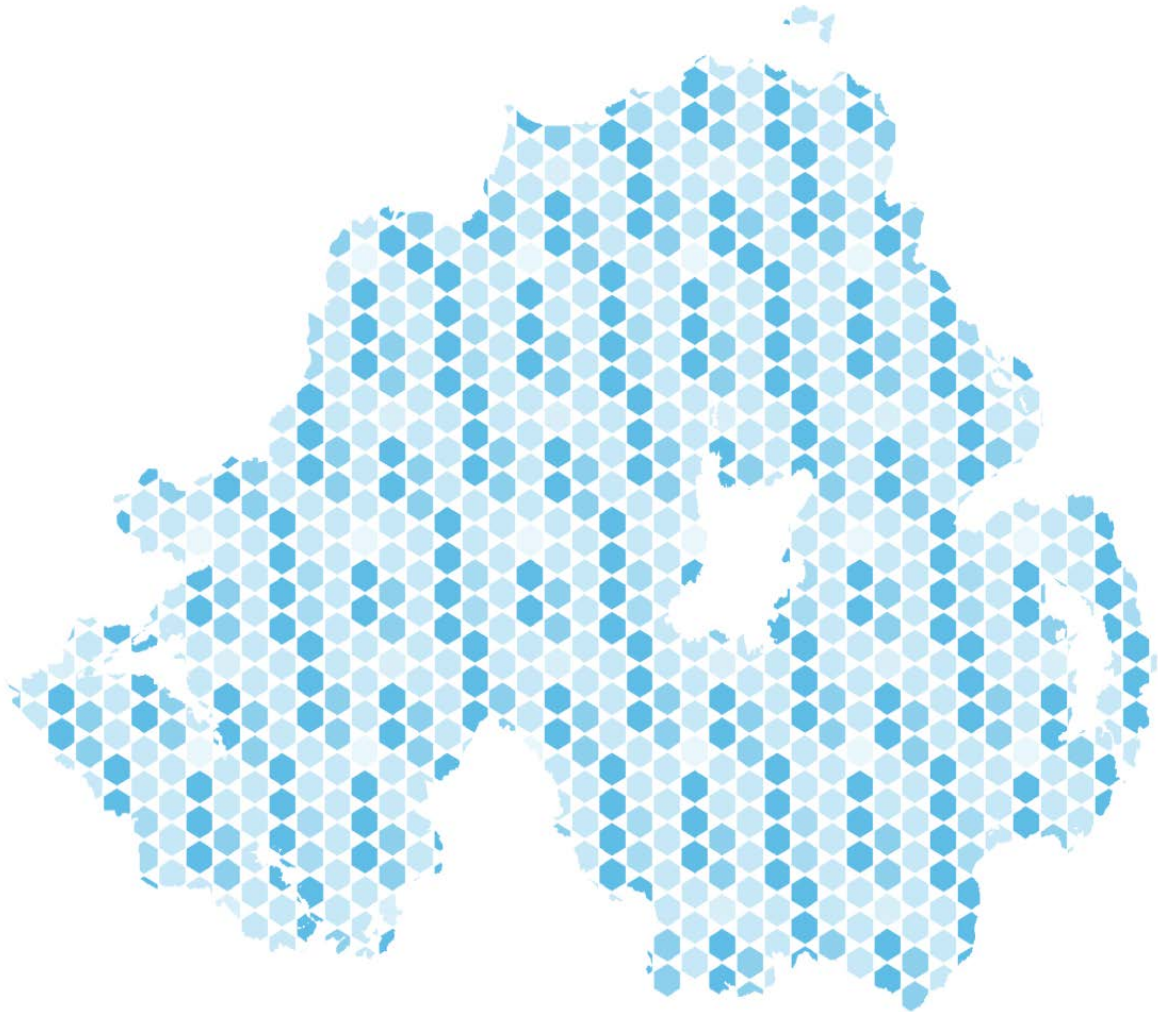


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Carryduff Primary School, Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in June 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Carryduff Primary School, Belfast (401-3044)

Introduction

The previous inspection in June 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Carryduff Primary School as good.¹ A second Social Communication Unit has opened since the last inspection. The school is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 11 June 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 none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors, with the exception of the principal. 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

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to focus on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

Safeguarding

- During the 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 children in year 6 spoke positively about the care, support and encouragement they receive from the staff. They also reported that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. Owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully 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 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. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as a school demonstrating a capacity for sustained improvement.

Health and safety/Accommodation

1. The school's risk assessment has highlighted the need to relocate the office to supervise more effectively the public access to the school.

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