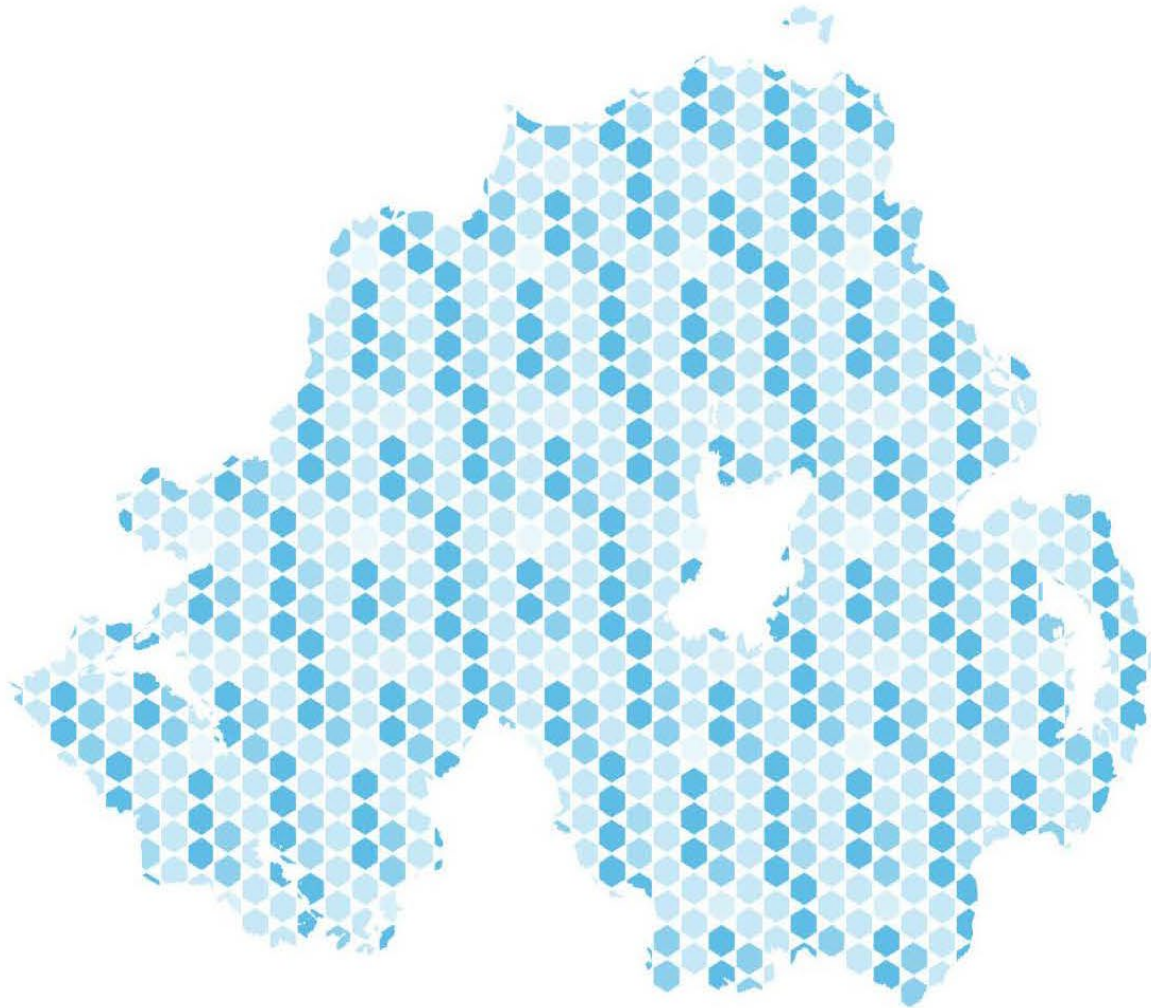


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Cavehill Primary School, Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Cavehill Primary School, Belfast (101-0831)

Introduction

The previous inspection in April 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Cavehill Primary School as good (from September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement). In the interim, a number of staff changes have taken place including the appointment of a vice-principal who took up post in October 2015. A shared education partnership has been established with a maintained primary school. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 22 October 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 the principal and vice-principal would be co-operating with the inspection in relation to their leadership and safeguarding responsibilities. 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 inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The line of inquiry during the SII was:

- the impact of the targeted interventions designed to support children with aspects of their learning in literacy and numeracy.

Key findings

- There is highly effective use of a wide range of qualitative and quantitative data to monitor the children's progress in literacy and numeracy.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The children reported that they feel safe and cared for in school; they know what to do and who to speak to if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. However, owing to 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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