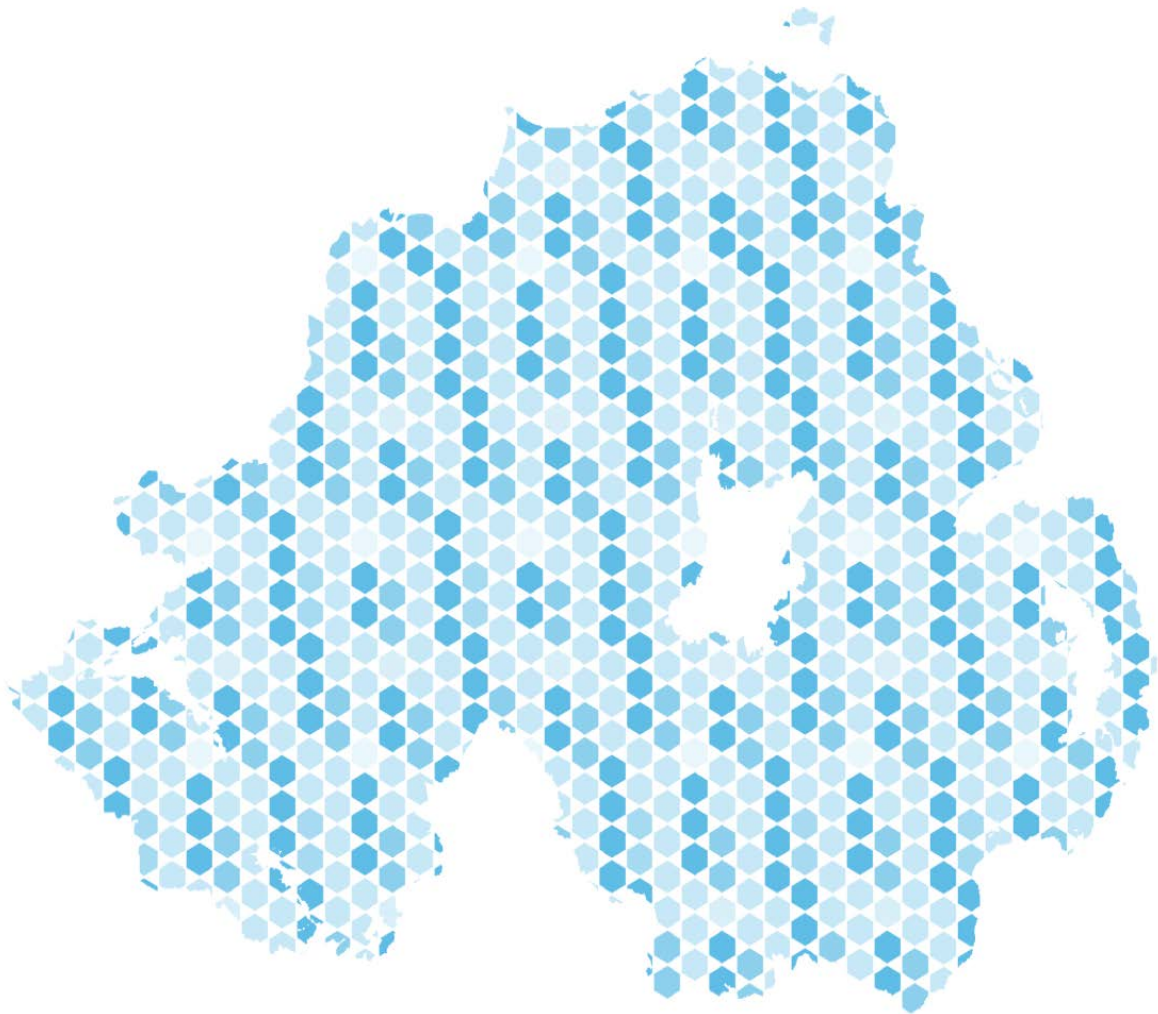


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Derrygonnelly Primary School,
Derrygonnelly, County Fermanagh

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in December 2017

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Derrygonnelly Primary School, Derrygonnelly, County Fermanagh (201 1899)

Introduction

The previous inspection in October 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Derrygonnelly Primary School as outstanding¹. Since the last inspection, the principal has commenced phased retirement; one of the current full-time teachers is employed as an acting principal for three days each week. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 4 December 2017.

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, including the principal, 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.

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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

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

It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education (DE). The behaviour management policy does not comply fully with the guidance from the DE and needs to be reviewed promptly to include practices relating to suspensions and expulsions.

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

The ETI team met with a small group of year 6 children; they reported that they feel happy and safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being. However, 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 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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