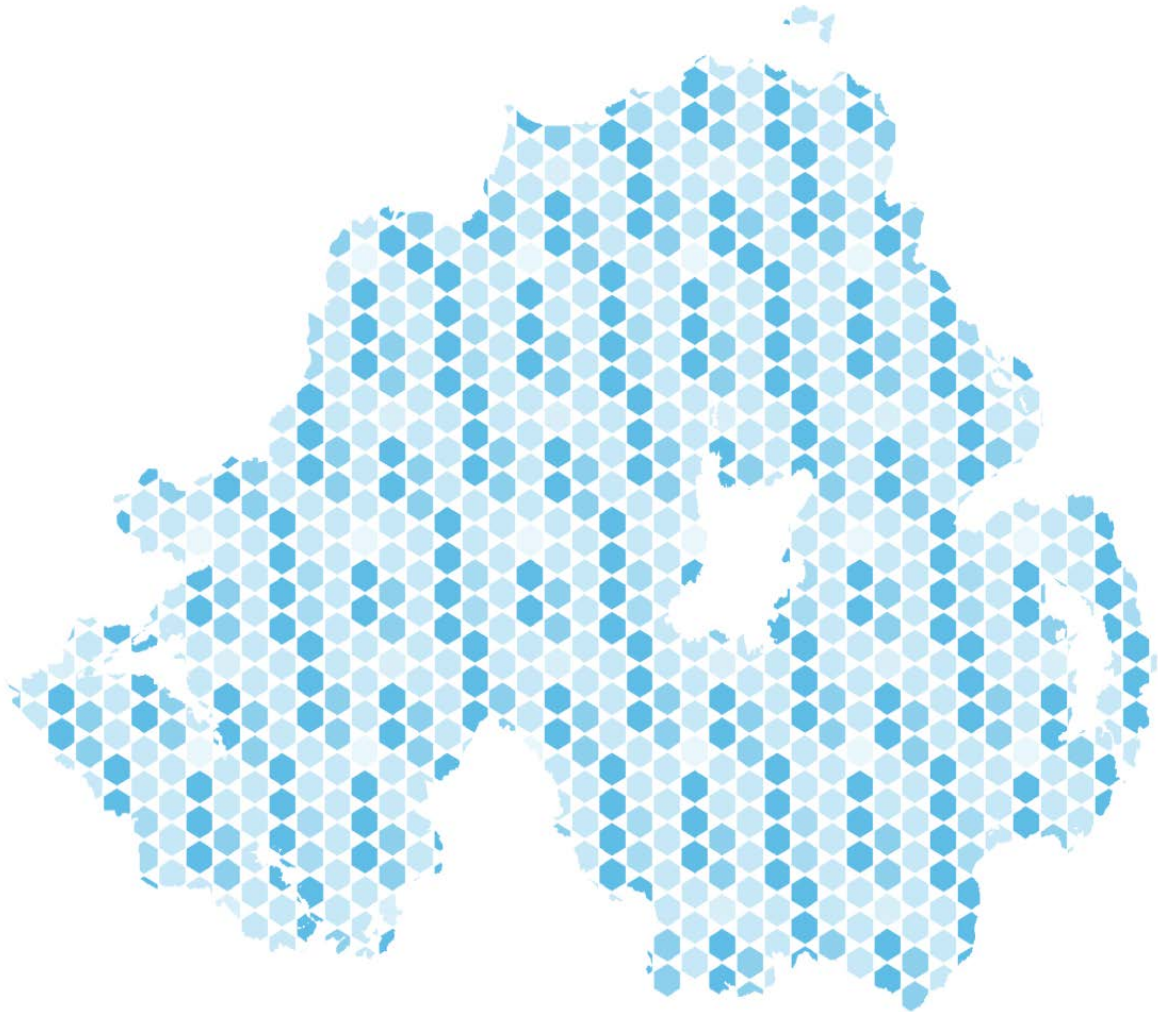


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Eden Primary School, Ballymoney,
County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Eden Primary School, Ballymoney, County Antrim (301-0796)

Introduction

The previous inspection in March 2015, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Eden Primary School as good¹. In the interim, a new principal was appointed in January 2017, followed by the permanent appointment of two teachers. A sustaining improvement inspection was conducted on 12 March 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 almost all of the teachers 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 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 ETI met with the principal and chairperson of the board of governors and a group of children from year six and seven. The school provided evidence of provision for safeguarding and school improvement as part of the inspection.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- the implementation of a wider range of strategies for learning and teaching in reading; and
- the development of strategic and middle leadership in the school.

Key findings

- Systematic self-evaluation, including the use of the school's internal quantitative and qualitative data, informs the programme of improvement. The principal and co-ordinators monitor and evaluate effectively the aspects of the provision being developed within the action plans and the impact on the children's learning; the relevant evaluations of learning and teaching inform accurately subsequent actions for improvement. The children spoke positively about how they share their ideas and views in the school; and, the various opportunities they have to extend their learning, including through the shared education partnership.
- The staff, including the co-ordinators and the principal, have undertaken relevant staff development to increase the strategic leadership capacity and to improve the quality of provision and progression in the children's learning.

¹ From September 2015, a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- 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. The children reported that they feel happy, 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 wellbeing including how to keep safe online. 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 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.

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