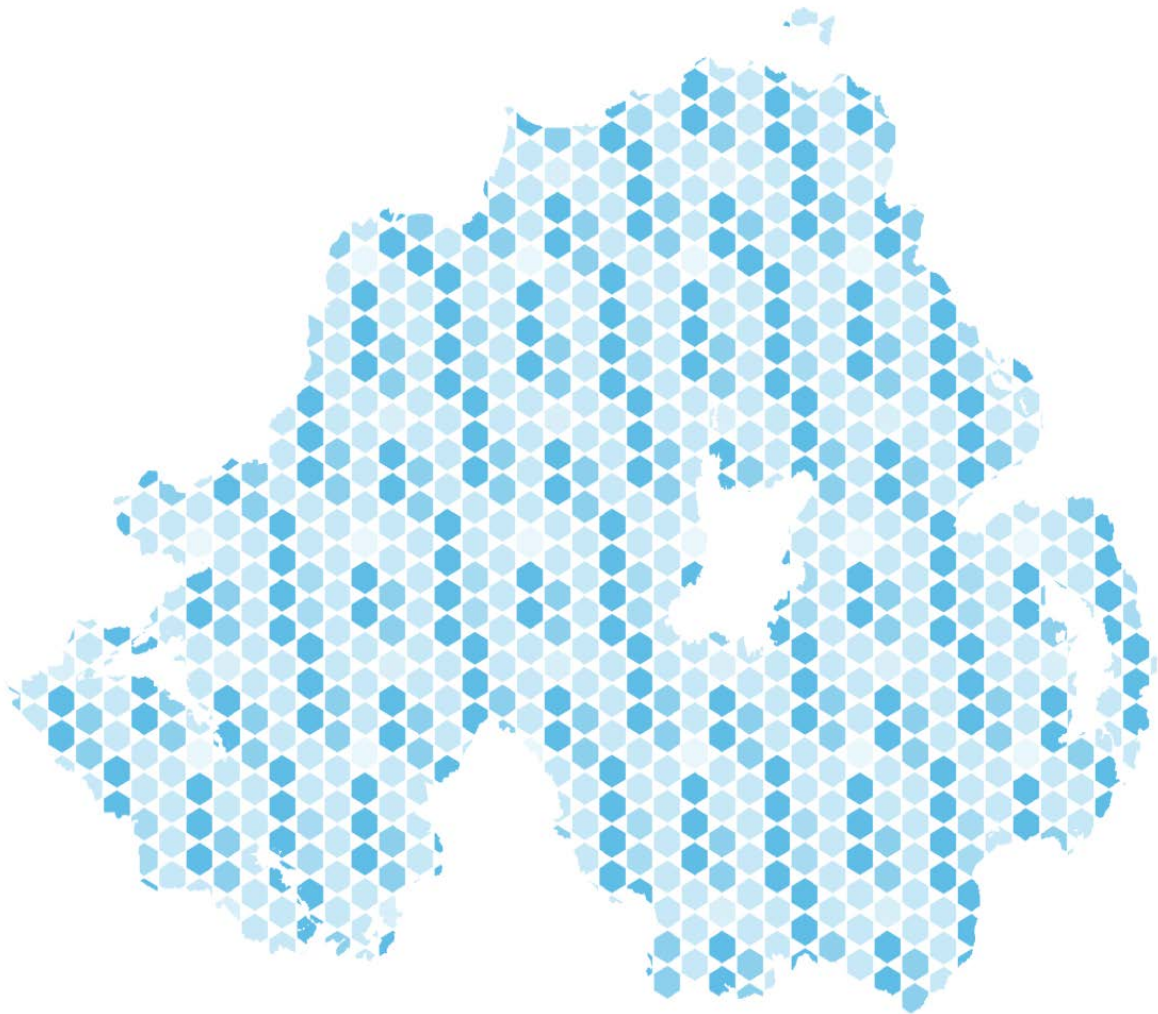


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Holy Child Primary School,  
Derry

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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CUSTOMER  
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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Holy Child Primary School, Derry (203-0381)**

### **Introduction**

The previous follow-up inspection in November 2013, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Holy Child Primary School as very good<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 12 January 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 included non-co-operation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed ETI that all of the teachers would not be co-operating with the inspectors. The ETI have 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 lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- the development of numeracy across the curriculum; and
- the implementation of the Shared Education programme.

### **Key findings**

- There is clear evidence of progress in taking forward the key priorities identified in the school development plan to sustain improvement. The well-established culture of self-evaluation and the collegial approach to school improvement remain key features of the work of the school. The school continues to make appropriate use of performance data in order to improve further the learning experiences and intervention programmes provided for the children in numeracy.
- The school provides good opportunities for the children to learn about community relations, equality, diversity and reconciliation; it participates in a comprehensive Shared Education programme where the children learn together with their peers from a controlled school through engagement in a range of drama, musical and curricular projects. The school has identified the need to monitor and evaluate more effectively the extent of the children's understanding of the programme.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- The quality of the work in the children's books, the quality of learning and teaching within the classroom and have discussions with relevant co-ordinators.

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

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding continue to reflect<sup>2</sup> the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. A group of year six children reported that they feel safe and secure and know who to go to if they have any concerns.

## **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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<sup>2</sup> From January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as comprehensive are reported as **reflect** the guidance.

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