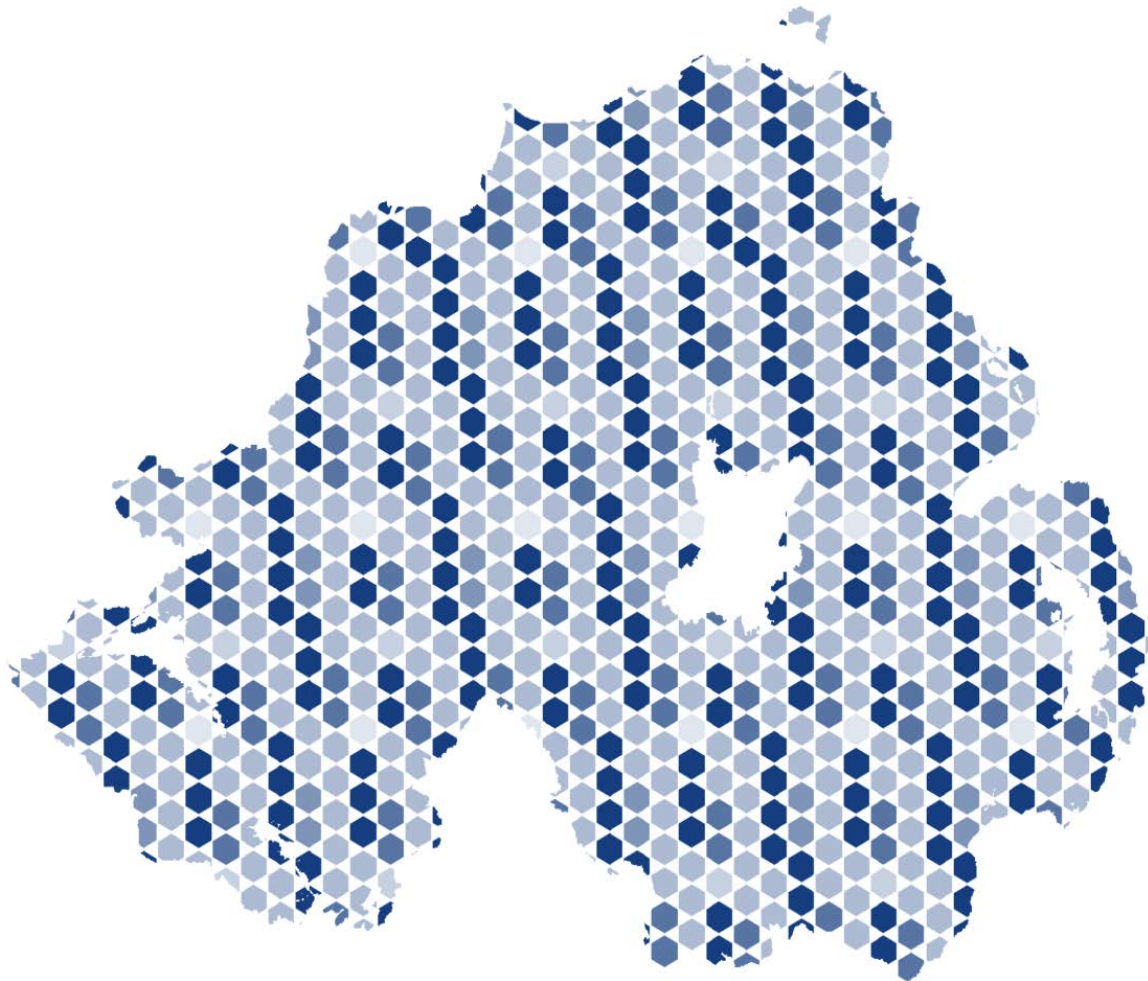


POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Loreto College, Coleraine,
County Londonderry

11-19, co-educational, voluntary, grammar school

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in May 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 Loreto College, Coleraine (342-0034)

Introduction

The previous inspection in February 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Loreto College as very good¹. In the interim, the senior leadership team has remained the same, with a number of changes on the teaching staff taking place. The pupils' academic profile is the key issue of change, due to Loreto ending academic selection in 2013 and the forthcoming closure of a nearby non-selective school, which has meant the College has to provide for a wider academic intake. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 3 and 4 May 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 inspection. 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 purpose of the SII was to evaluate 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 to:

- evaluate the outcomes for pupils at GCSE and post-16; and
- assess the appropriateness of the curriculum.

Owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the lines of inquiry.

Key findings

- Overall the outcomes for pupils remain very good. Around 70 percent of pupils attain 7 or more GCSEs, or equivalent, at grades A*-B including English and mathematics, which is appropriate for a school with high aspirations and expectations for its pupils. Some variation exists between the outcomes for boys and girls at this level, with the girls performing better. Improvement is required in some areas of modern languages, where certain outcomes are not good enough. Outcomes at post-16 are a key strength; in 2017, 93% of the year 14 pupils achieved 3 or more A levels at grades A*-C, or equivalent, placing the college in the top five percent of similar schools in this year.

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

- The college keeps its curriculum under review and is providing more vocational options. Given that the pupil profile is currently in a period of transition, this work needs to continue and curriculum options widen further. There is good use of qualitative and quantitative data to address under-attainment and inform better curriculum pathways. Consequently, there is good alignment between the use of academic data and pastoral information to tailor effective holistic support around meeting the needs of the pupils. The challenge for the college, going forward, is providing additional high quality tailored support for the diverse learning and pastoral needs of a changing intake.
- In discussions with the inspectors, the pupils valued the supportive working relationships they have with the staff and talked with pride about the Loreto ethos; the senior pupils, in particular, were extremely appreciative of the leadership opportunities that the College provides them.

Safeguarding

- During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding pupils reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The pupils reported that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of action short of strike being taken by almost all of the teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality education provided for the pupils. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2018

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk