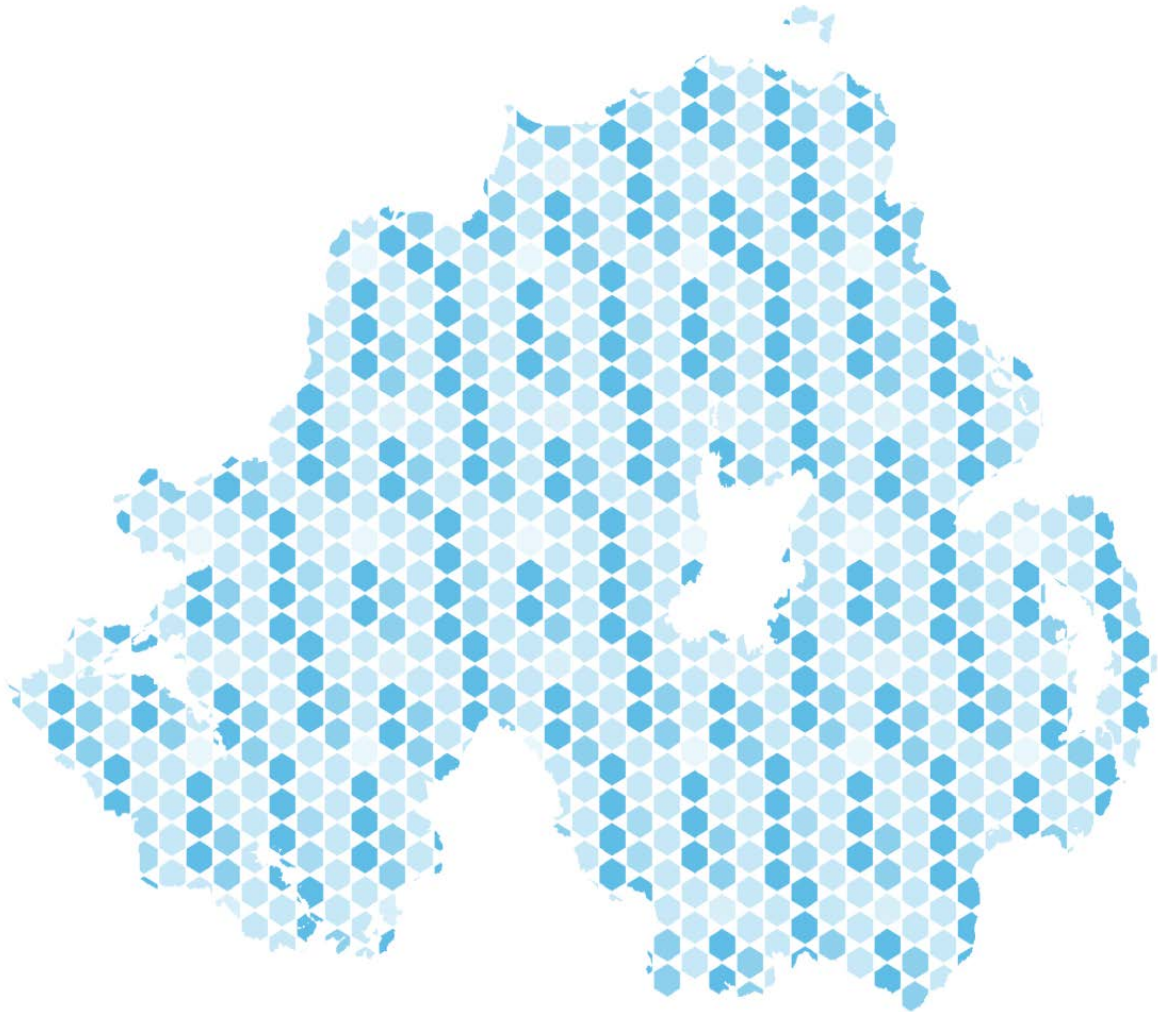


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Loughash Primary School,
Donemana, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

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



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 Loughash Primary School, Donemana, County Tyrone (203-2724)

Introduction

The previous inspection in June 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Loughash Primary School as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 12 June 2017. Since the last inspection, an acting principal and several temporary assistant teachers have been in post.

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 participating 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
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines of inquiry; and
- the quality of the learning and teaching within the classroom.

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 satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Work on the following aspects is underway and needs to be completed:

- the ongoing review and ratification by the board of governors of school policies relating to child protection and safeguarding.

¹ A school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

During the inspection, the ETI team met with a small group of children from years 6 and 7. The children reported that they feel safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being. The children assume leadership roles in the school including prefects, membership of the Eco-school council and 'buddies' for the year one children. 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.

Health and Safety/Accommodation

- To review the access arrangements through the door at the side of the school adjacent to the mobile classroom.

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