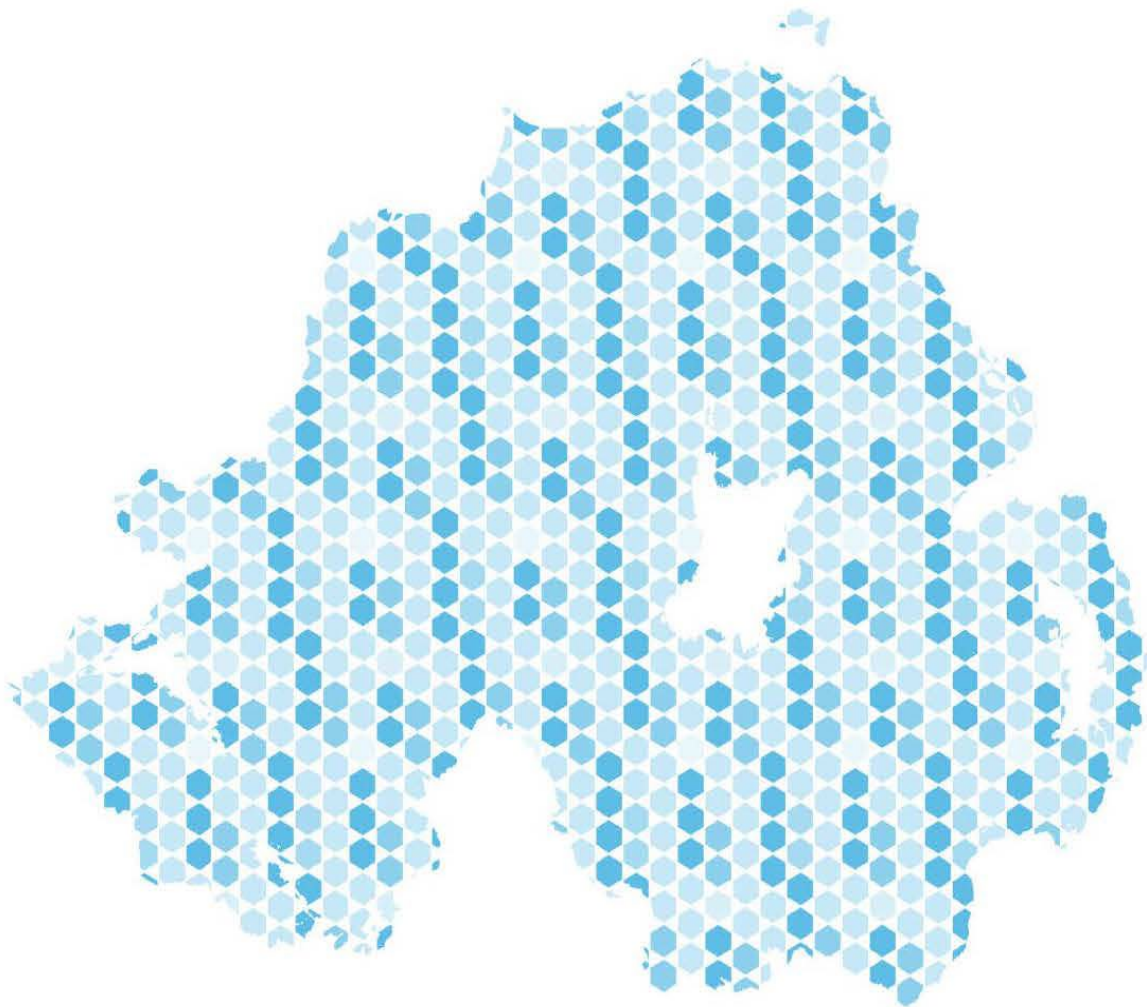


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Scoil an Droichid, Belfast

Irish-medium, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Scoil an Droichid, Belfast (104-6641)

Introduction

The previous inspection in June 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Scoil an Droichid as good (from September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement). A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 1 October 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 none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal co-operated with the inspection team in relation to her safeguarding responsibilities. 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 lines of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect or reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education (the Department of Education will seek assurance from the Education Authority that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report).

The school needs to:

- review and update all relevant policies and training materials to reflect the most recent guidance from the Department of Education.

The inspector 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 staff, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education and safeguarding being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

The ETI will return to the school within six working weeks to evaluate and report on the arrangements for safeguarding.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE SUSTAINING IMPROVEMENT INSPECTION OF SCOIL AN DROICHID, IN OCTOBER 2018

SAFEGUARDING

The ETI returned to the school on 14 November 2018 to monitor and report on arrangements for safeguarding.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to provide evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding; owing to action short of strike, the school did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding reflect or reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education at the time of the sustaining improvement inspection on 1 October 2018.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education.

The school needs to ensure a greater level of rigour in the ongoing consultation and review process of all safeguarding policies.

Owing to the ongoing action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully, the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

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