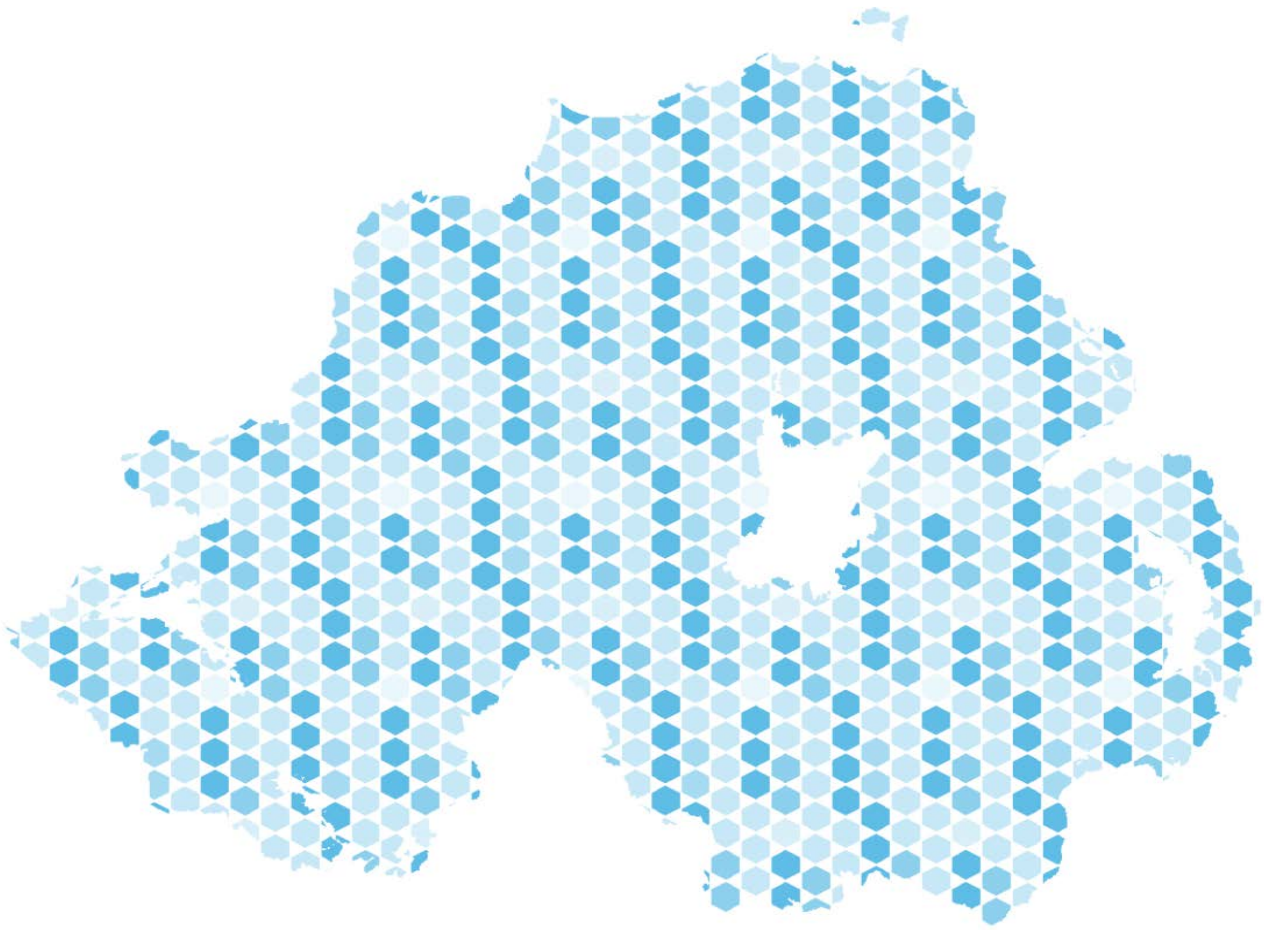


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Seaview Primary School,
Glenarm, County Antrim

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in February 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 Seaview Primary School, Glenarm (303-0899)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Seaview Primary School as very good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 23 February 2017.

Four of the teaching unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute. This includes non-cooperation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that none of the staff 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 limited evaluations are based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection.

Focus of the inspection

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

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

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the quality and extent of the children's learning outcomes; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classroom.

Key findings

- The ETI was able to evaluate aspects of the quality of the school's self-evaluation processes to inform the school development plan (SDP). The SDP is comprehensive, devised through appropriate consultation and identifies priorities along with clear action plans to bring about improvement in the learning experiences for, and the outcomes achieved by, the children.
- 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. In discussion with the inspector, a group of children from year 6 and year 7 reported that they enjoy school, feel safe and know what to do if they have any concerns about their wellbeing. 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.

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

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of action short of strike being taken by the teachers and the principal, 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.

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