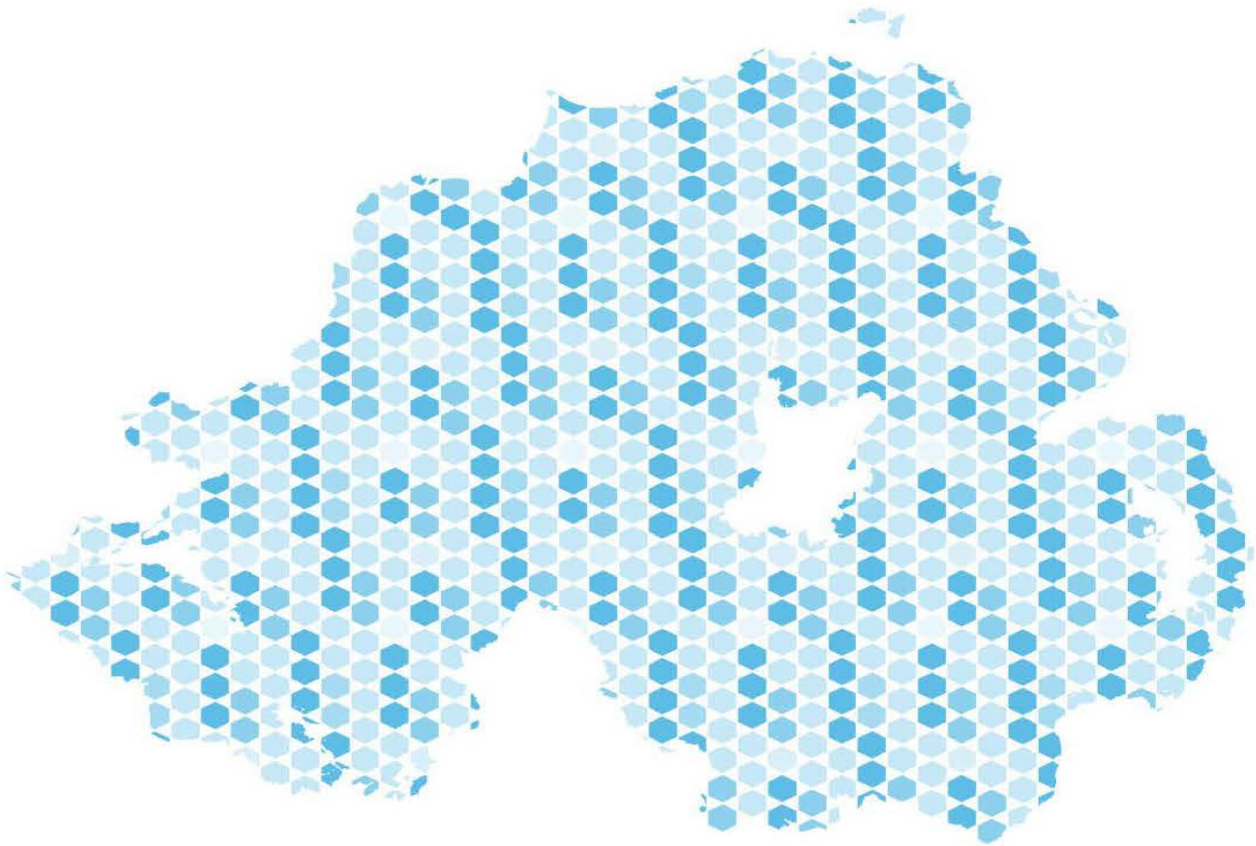


Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Francis' Primary School, Lurgan, County Armagh

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (503-6633)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in April 2019



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 St Francis' Primary School, Lurgan, County Armagh (503-6633)

Introduction

The previous inspection in November 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Francis' Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. In the interim, there has been a change in senior leadership. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 10 April 2019.

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 all of the teachers, would not be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal, vice-principal and designated teacher for child protection co-operated with the inspection in relation to 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
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- A group of year 6 children reported that they enjoy the wide variety of learning activities within class and in the school grounds. The children value the opportunities for growing vegetables, studying wildlife and taking part in a programme for breeding red squirrels for release into the wild in conjunction with Belfast Zoo. They spoke positively about their opportunities to engage in leadership roles in the School- and Eco-Councils, where they encourage the use of re-useable water bottles for staff and children, participate in keeping the woodland area and cloakrooms tidy, and work on the school vegetable plots.

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 provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. 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 being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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