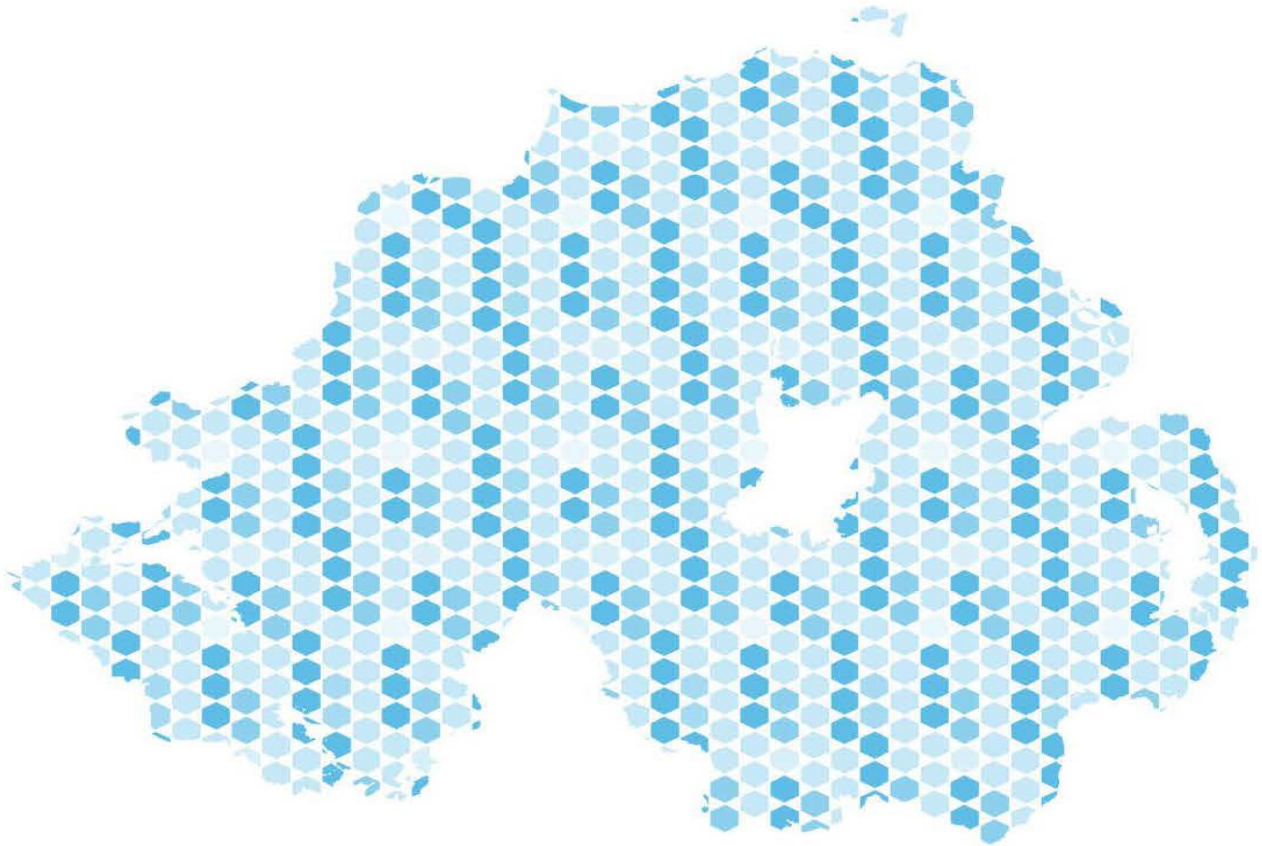


Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Joseph's Primary School and Ederney Community Nursery, Ederney, County Fermanagh

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (203-6070)

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Joseph's Primary School and Ederney Community Nursery, Ederney, County Fermanagh (203-6070)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Joseph's Primary School and Ederney Community Nursery as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 11 March 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 none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal and designated teacher for child protection co-operated with the inspection team in relation to their 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 spoke very enthusiastically about their learning experiences in school. During the discussions, they highlighted: the friendly environment and the positive working relationships throughout the school which help them learn; their enjoyment of the range of extra-curricular activities provided for them; and, the positive contributions and suggestions that they are able to make through the Eco- and School- councils.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- 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. The group of year 6 children reported that they feel safe in school 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 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.

Health and safety/Accommodation

1. The school needs to review and address the security arrangements into and within the school grounds in order to restrict public access to the play areas.
2. The school has submitted minor work applications for:
 - accommodation to support the additional learning needs of a small number of the children; and
 - additional toileting facilities for staff.

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