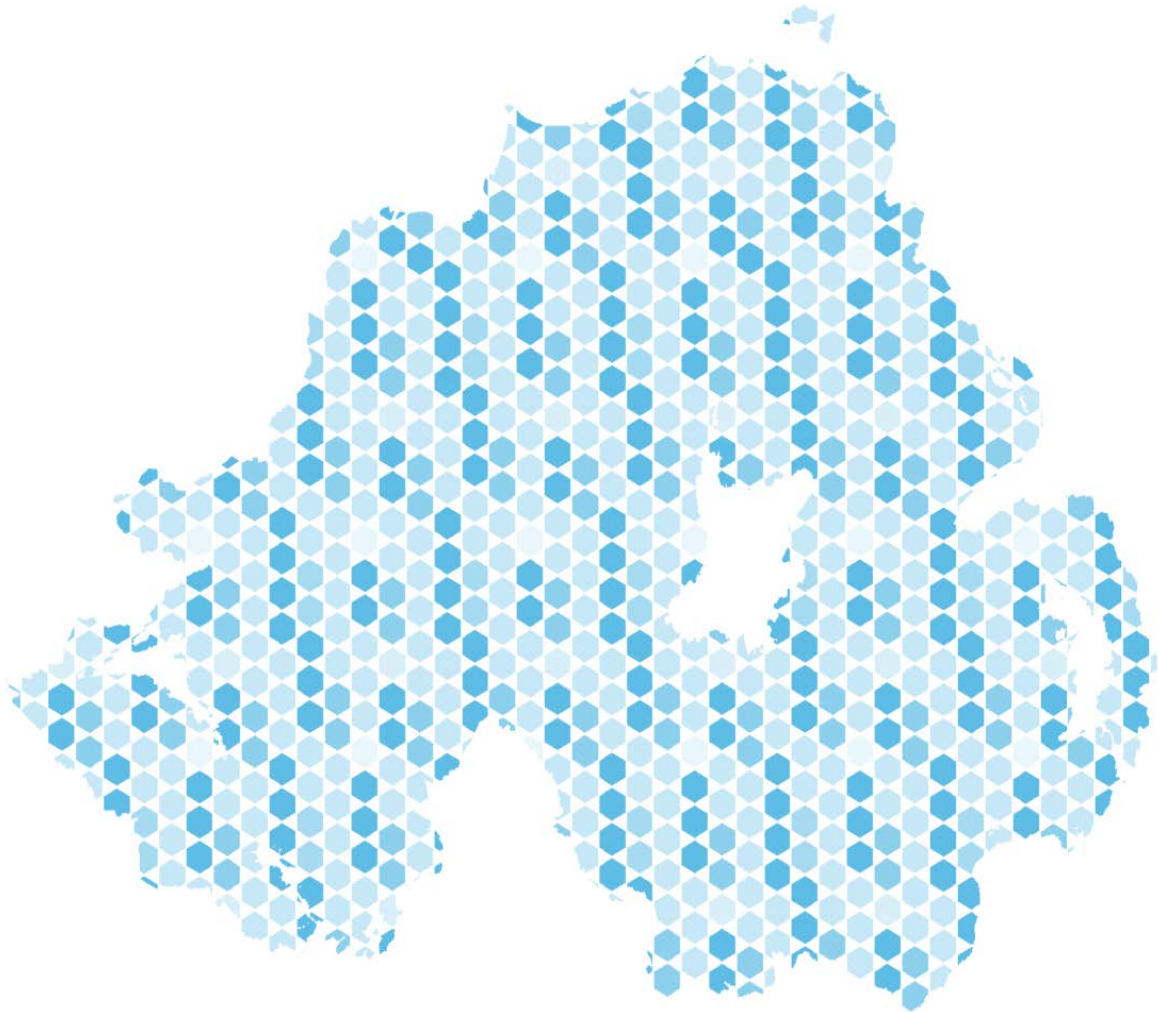


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Macartan's Primary School,  
Loughinisland, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

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

*eti*

The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
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CUSTOMER  
SERVICE  
EXCELLENCE



## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Macartan's Primary School, County Down (403-3007)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in June 2011 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Macartan's Primary School as very good<sup>1</sup>. The school took part in the pilot of the sustaining improvement inspection (SII). A second SII was conducted on 25 May 2017.

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 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**

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school also provided evidence regarding the arrangements for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

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

### **Key findings**

- The school development plan is compliant, devised through wide consultation and identifies appropriate priorities underpinned by clear action plans to bring about improvement in the learning experiences for, and the outcomes achieved by, the children. During the inspection, a small group of children met with the inspectors and spoke enthusiastically about their learning, particularly in the world around us and information and communication technology.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

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

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<sup>1</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly<sup>2</sup> the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The children reported that they feel safe in the school and that they 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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<sup>2</sup> From January 2017, arrangements previously evaluated as satisfactory are reported as reflect broadly the guidance.

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