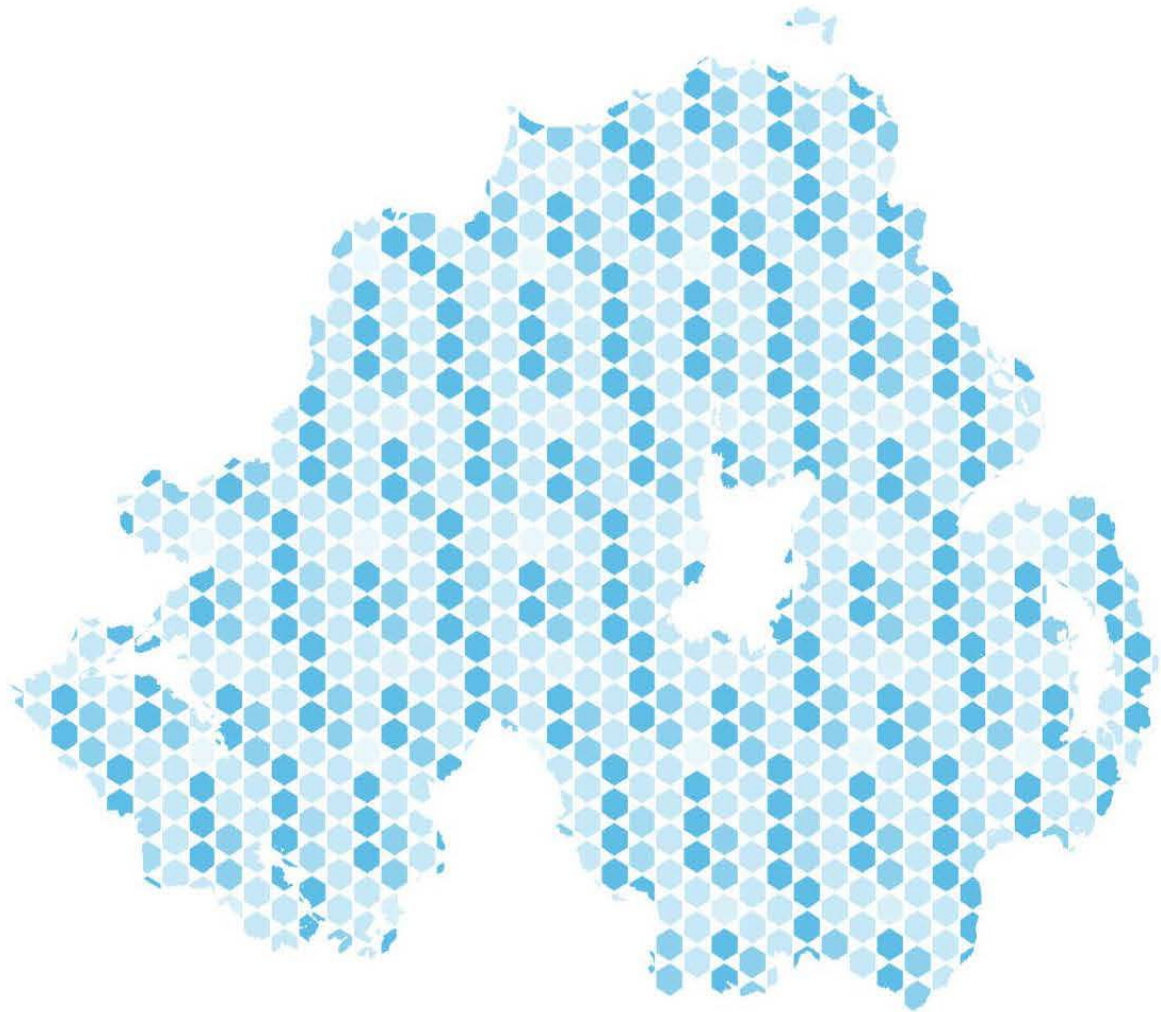


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Malachy's Primary School, Glencull,
Ballygawley, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

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

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Malachy's Primary School, Glencull, Ballygawley, County Tyrone (503-2306)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Malachy's Primary School as having high capacity for sustained improvement. Since the inspection, the enrolment has increased steadily to 77 children. One additional member of staff has been appointed. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 10 December 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 the teachers, including the principal, would not be co-operating fully with the inspectors. The principal and the designated teacher for safeguarding co-operated with the inspection 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- A group of key stage (KS) 2 children reported that they have access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including sport, music and drama and benefit from visits to the theatre as they are more confident to take on roles in school plays for the local school community. They have appropriate opportunities to take on leadership roles in the School Council. The children have a good understanding of the importance of taking responsibility for themselves and others.
- The children reported that they are interested in a range of curricular subjects and have an opportunity to attend Irish language classes in key stage (KS) 2.

- The school's leadership has developed programmes to build the children's resilience and well-being. The children reported that they value the care provided by the teachers and all have made a number of friends and are happy in school.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the line of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.
- 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 the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. A group of children from year 6 reported that they feel safe in school and know what to do if they have any concerns 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 being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

Health and Safety/Accommodation

1. The two mobile classrooms, showing excessive signs of wear and tear including areas of damp and serious condensation on the single-glazed windows which could have potentially an adverse impact on health and well-being, are still in use at the school and the accommodation issues identified during the previous inspection have not been addressed.

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