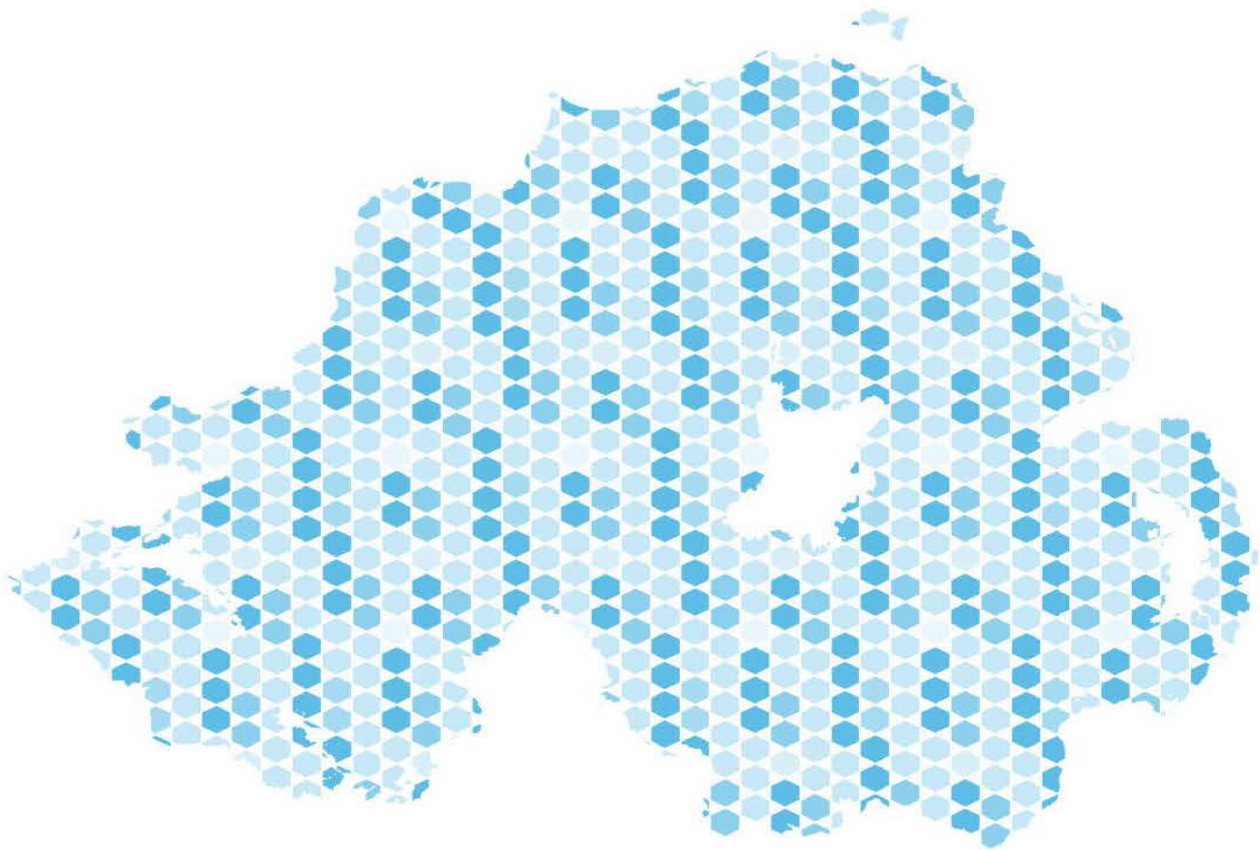


Education and Training Inspectorate PRIMARY INSPECTION



Stewartstown Primary School, Stewartstown, County Tyrone

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No: 501-2643

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Stewartstown Primary School, Stewartstown, County Tyrone (501-2643)

Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Stewartstown Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. The school is engaged in a shared education partnership with a maintained primary school. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was carried out on 30 September 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 inspection. The senior leadership 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- A group of year 6 and 7 children spoke positively about their learning across the curriculum; they highlighted their enjoyment of literacy, numeracy, art and physical education. They explained the important roles and responsibilities they carry out as 'buddies' and prefects, and how the school council provides them with the opportunity to contribute to decision making regarding school life.
- 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.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- a line 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 children report 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 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.

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