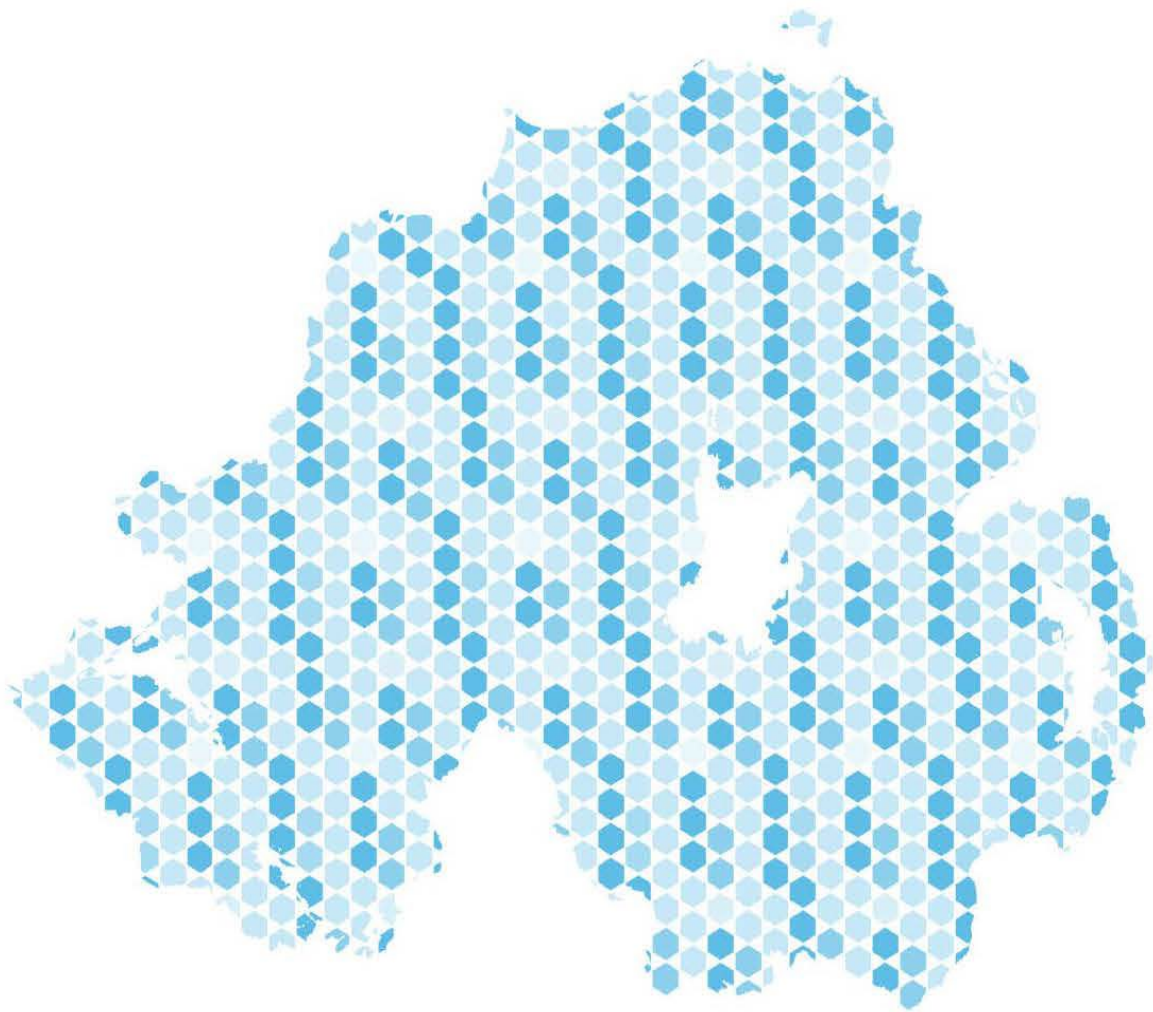


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Tannaghmore Primary School,
Lurgan, County Armagh

Maintained, co-educational

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



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 Tannaghmore Primary School, Lurgan, County Armagh (503-1103)

Introduction

The previous inspection in December 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Tannaghmore Primary School as good (from September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement). In the interim, a replacement school building and play areas have been constructed on the same site resulting in a very attractive environment for learning. The total school admission number has been reduced by the Department of Education from 840 to 630 children. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 10 December 2018. At the time of the inspection, an acting principal and acting vice-principal were in place.

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 co-operated with the inspectors in relation to her safeguarding responsibilities. The ETI have 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 enquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- A group of year 6 children spoke positively about the friendly ethos of the school, the good opportunities to develop further the school environment through their roles in the Eco-council, and the school system for promoting positive behaviour.

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. In discussions with the inspector, a group of year 6 children reported that they feel happy and safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to 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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