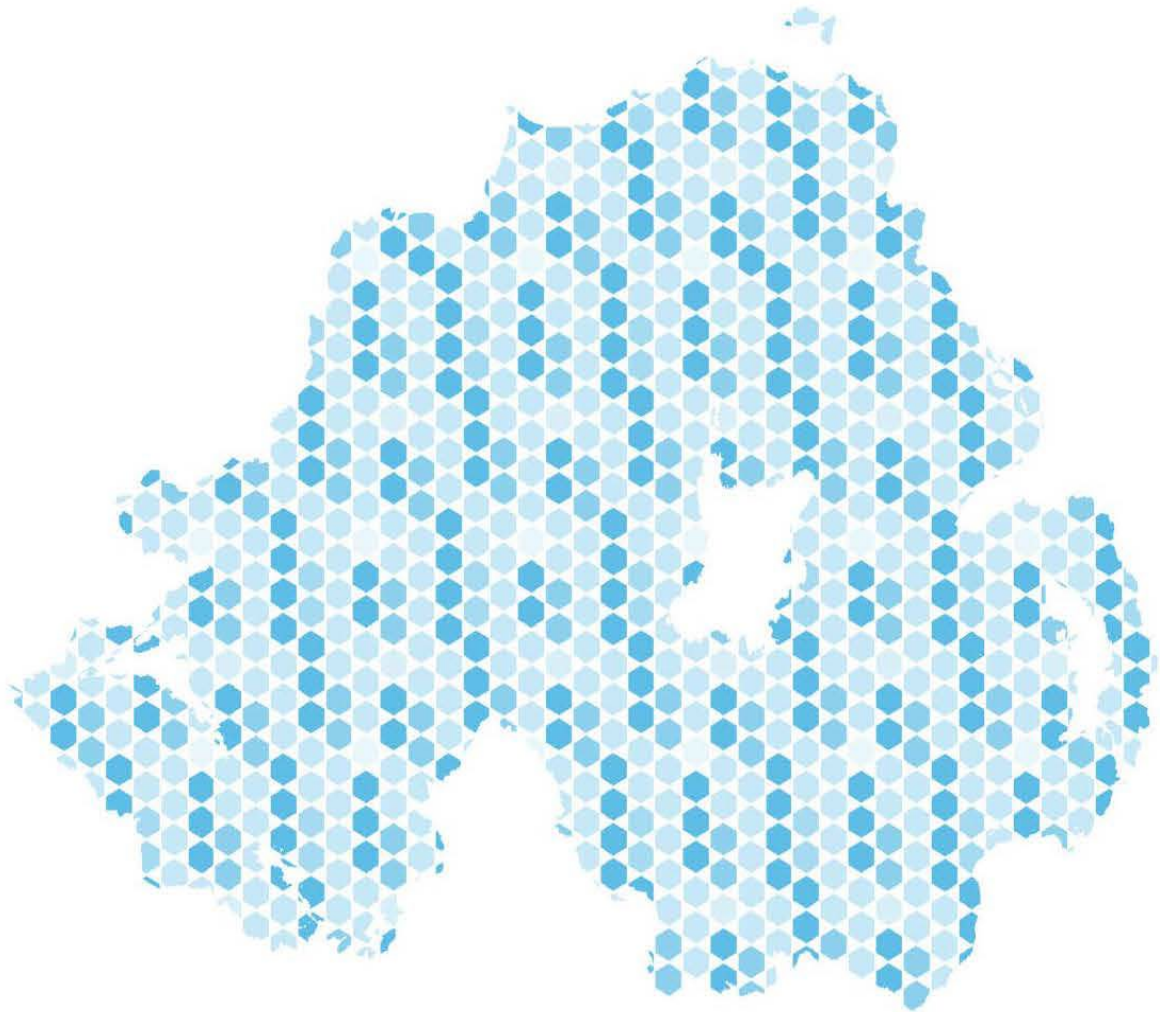


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

The Diamond Primary School,
Cullybackey, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

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

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 The Diamond Primary School, Cullybackey, County Antrim (301-0826)

Introduction

The previous inspection in December 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of The Diamond Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 12 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 none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal co-operated with the inspection team in relation to the school's 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

- The group of year 6 children report that they have very good opportunities to develop a range of skills through participation in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities including language and science and technology classes and various sporting and creative clubs. The children also reported that the school's resources, in particular, information and communication technology (ICT) motivates them and they enjoy their learning.

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 discussion, the group of year 6 children reported that they feel safe and happy in school and that they are aware of 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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