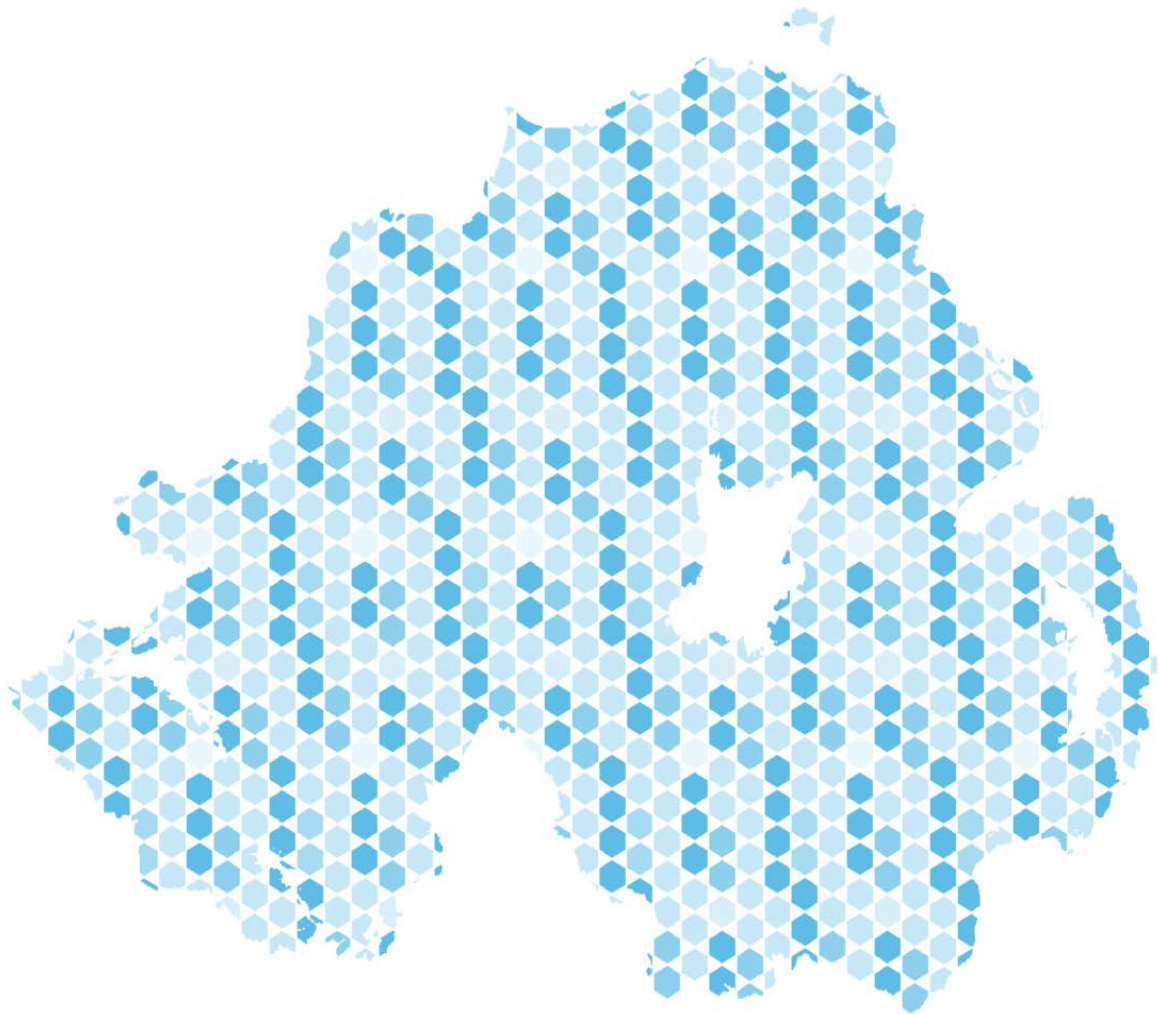


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Whiteabbey Primary School,
Newtownabbey, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Whiteabbey Primary School, Newtownabbey, County Antrim (301-0846)

Introduction

The previous inspection in October 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Whiteabbey Primary School as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 14 May 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 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

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

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

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

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect or reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education². Owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding.

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 and safeguarding being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

The ETI will return to the school within six weeks to evaluate the progress in addressing the arrangements for safeguarding.

¹From September 2015, a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

² The Department of Education will seek assurance from the Education Authority that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF WHITEABBEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, ANTRIM, IN JUNE 2018

SAFEGUARDING

The ETI returned to the school on 20 June 2018 to monitor and report on arrangements for safeguarding.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to provide evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding. Owing to action short of strike, the school did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect or reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education at the time of the inspection on 14 May 2018.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education.

In discussion with the year 6 children, they reported that they feel safe in school and know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned 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.

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