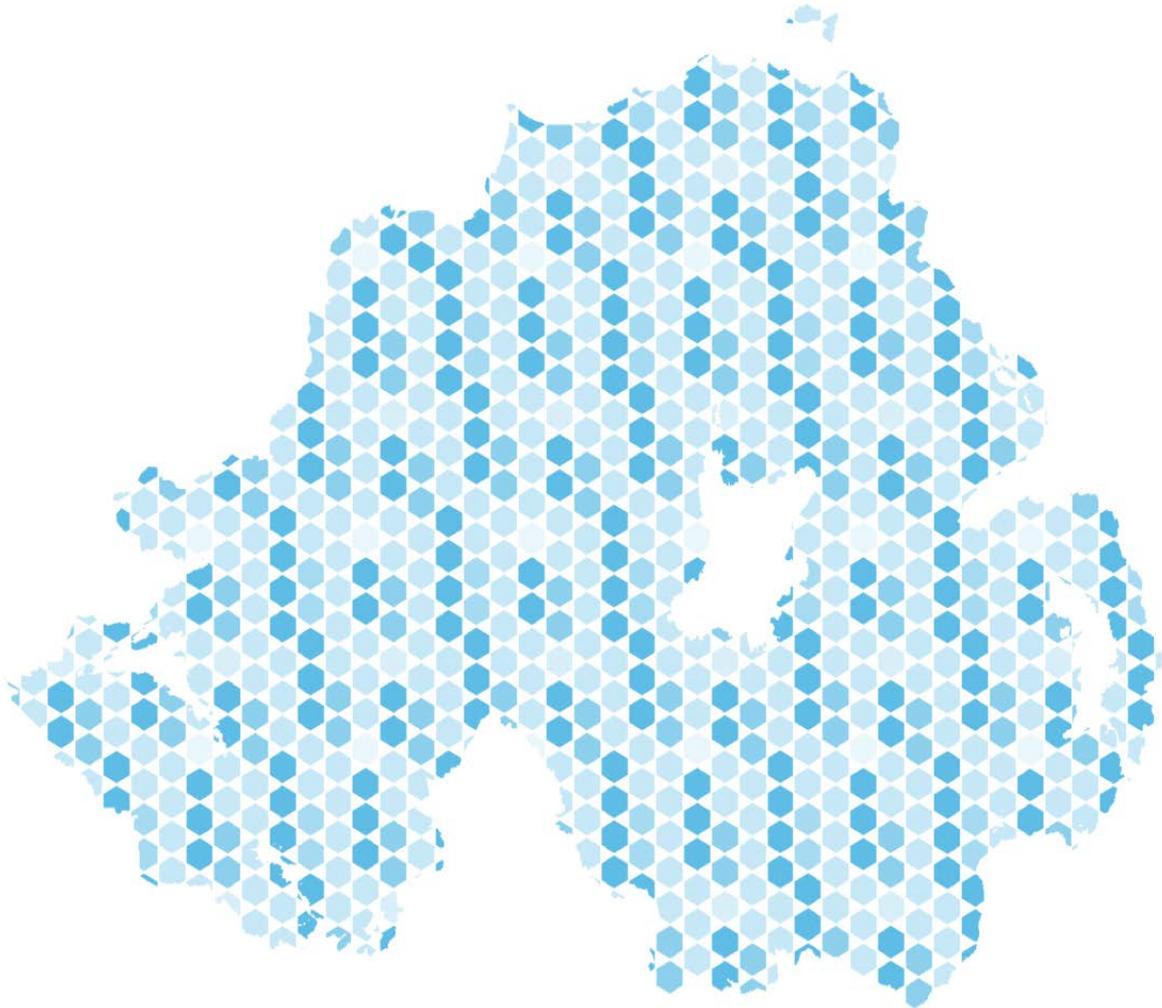


PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Kilmaine Primary School, Bangor,
County Down

Controlled, co-educational

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

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Kilmaine Primary School, Bangor, County Down (401-6192)

Introduction

The previous inspection in April 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Kilmaine Primary School as very good¹. In the interim, the school has a new vice-principal and a significant number of new teachers. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 2 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 none of the teachers would 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

- During the inspection, the ETI met with the principal, the pastoral care co-ordinator and a representative of the board of governors. The principal and governor reported that the governors are actively involved in, and well-informed about, all aspects of the life and work of the school.

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 provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflects broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The school has developed a wide range of policies and procedures to safeguard the children. A group of children from year 6 reported that they feel safe and happy in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being. However, owing to action sort of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

¹From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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