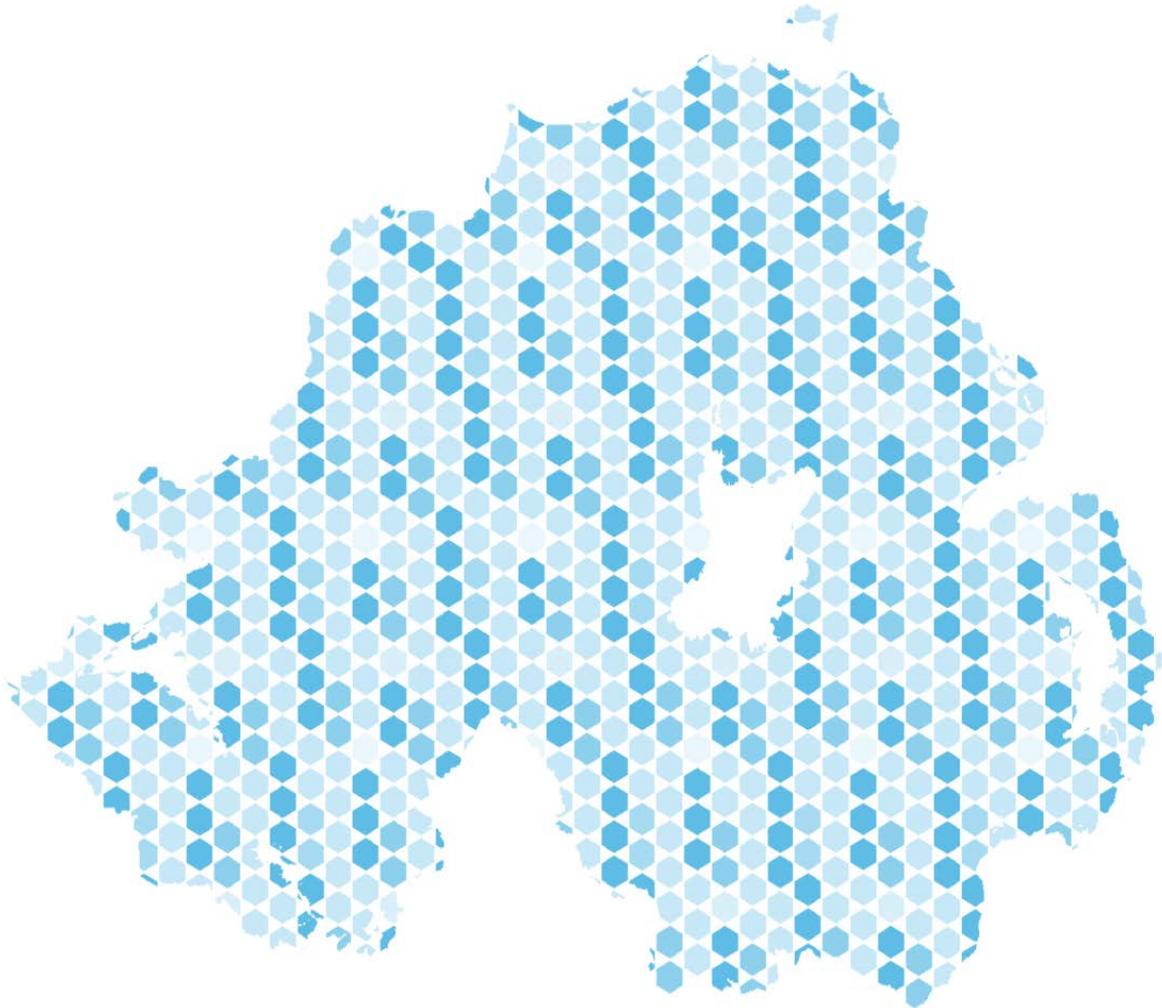


# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Brigid's Primary School,  
Glassdrummond, County Armagh

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Brigid's Primary School, Glasdrummond, County Armagh (503-1163)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in January, 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Brigid's Primary School as very good<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 29-30 January 2018. In the interim, the school enrolment has risen to 204 children and a new vice-principal has been appointed.

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**

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- to raise further the standards achieved by the children in numeracy; and
- to develop further the school's provision for reading.

### **Key findings**

- The school has used very effectively both quantitative and qualitative data, including extensive consultation with all stakeholders, to identify areas for further development in numeracy. The acquisition and use of new resources is placing a greater focus on mathematical thinking and problem-solving; the children report that the learning in mathematics is more active and engaging. A range of interventions are addressing the needs of individual children and the quality of support provided by the classroom assistants is very good.
- The school has made a significant investment in promoting reading through the purchase of new reading schemes, books and information and communication technology (ICT) -related activities; the library has been refurbished to provide a very attractive environment for reading. The children report that the new resources and approaches to reading are motivating them and the progress the children are making in their reading is evidenced well by the school's data. The school's internal performance data shows that almost all of the children, including those with additional learning needs, are achieving as expected, or above, in both English and mathematics.

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<sup>1</sup> From 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.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- 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. During the discussion with a group of children from year 6, the children reported that they enjoy their learning, feel happy and safe within the school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.

### **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.

**Health and Safety/Accommodation**

1. While the principal and staff are active in overseeing the access arrangements to the school, the increasing volume of cars on a very narrow road could potentially compromise the safety of the children; this situation has been raised with the appropriate authorities and needs to be resolved urgently.
2. The unreliable heating system is impacting negatively on the children, staff and work of the school and needs to be addressed.

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