

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Greenwood Primary School, Belfast

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (101-0304)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in September 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Introduction

The previous inspection in February 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Greenwood Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. Since the last inspection, there has been a new appointment to the senior leadership team. The school has obtained its fourth Green Flag Award. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 30 September 2019.

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 inspection. The senior leadership co-operated with the inspection team in relation to their leadership and 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The group of year 3 children who met with the inspector spoke enthusiastically about their experiences of school life at the school. They report that they have good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through the eco-council and regular responsibilities within the class.
- The current school development plan has been reviewed and evaluated and a new three-year school development planning process is underway which is informed by wide consultation with the children, staff, parents and governors. Areas for development have been informed through self-evaluation and both qualitative and quantitative data have been used to identify future priorities.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- 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 reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The children report that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. They children know how to stay safe online. 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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