

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Roan St Patrick's Primary School, Dungannon, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No: 503-2591

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in January 2020



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2013 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Roan St Patrick's Primary School as outstanding. The school was awarded 'Cumann na MBunscol¹ Small School of the Year' in 2019. The school took part in the pilot of the sustaining improvement inspection (SII) in November 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 22 January 2020.

The trade unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute, and also workload and other management issues. The industrial action 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 and middle leadership co-operated with the inspection in relation to safeguarding responsibilities. The ETI has a statutory duty to monitor, inspect and report on the standards of education and professional practice among teachers 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

- A group of year 6 and year 7 children met with the inspector. They spoke positively about the variety of learning and cultural experiences made available by the school including project-based activities, football, camogie and, cookery. The children reported that they are benefitting from the school's focus on supporting their well-being and mental health and they expressed clearly how the school promotes an inclusive ethos. The children reported that they have very good opportunities to develop their leadership skills through, for example, membership of the school council, the house system and the eco-committee.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

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

¹ Cumann na MBunscol is an autonomous National Federation of Primary Schools promoting Gaelic Games in Ireland in an educational context.

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 are well-informed about how to stay safe online and about safety on a farm. 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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