

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Joseph's Primary School and
Nursery Unit, Dunloy, County Antrim

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Unit, Dunloy, County Antrim (303-6423)

Introduction

The previous inspection in November 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Unit as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 20 November 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 principal co-operated with the inspection team in relation to the school's 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
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The group of year 6 children report that they have very good opportunities to develop their leadership and communication skills through the School Council. They also reported that they enjoy participating in various sporting, cultural and creative extra-curricular activities which extend their learning further.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines 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. In discussion, the group of year 6 children reported that they feel safe and happy in school and know what to do and who to talk to if they have any concerns 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.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the teachers, 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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