

# Education and Training Inspectorate

## PRIMARY INSPECTION



### St Joseph's Primary School, Carryduff, Belfast

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (403-1660)

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



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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Joseph's Primary School, Carryduff, Belfast, (403-1660)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in April 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Joseph's Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. Since then, a new member of the senior leadership team has been appointed and the school has continued to engage in a shared education partnership with local controlled primary schools. The school has achieved their third Eco Flag and a Rights Respecting Schools, Silver Award. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 20 May 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 inspectors. The principal and members of the pastoral team co-operated with the inspection team in relation to 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 6 children report that they have very good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through their roles in the School- and Eco-Councils and spoke positively about the responsibility they have to, and pride in, their school. As representatives of the School Council, the children have an active role in decision making and contribute to the regular review of school policies and are currently supporting the application for a Gold Award as a Rights Respecting School. The children are very proud of their Eco-garden and acknowledge the positive impact it has on their well-being. The children are enjoying their shared education activities, which have helped forge new friendships and provide a range of learning opportunities.

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 with a group of articulate year six children, they report that they feel safe in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. They have a very good knowledge of how to keep 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. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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