

# Education and Training Inspectorate

## PRIMARY INSPECTION



### St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit, Banbridge, County Down

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (503-6043)

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit, Banbridge, County Down (503-6043)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. In the interim, a new school building has been opened in 2017. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 27 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 including the principal 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**

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 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 did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect or reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education.<sup>1</sup>

## **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 and safeguarding being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

The ETI will return to the school within six weeks to evaluate and report on the arrangements for safeguarding.

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<sup>1</sup> The Department of Education will seek assurance from the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

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