

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Patrick's Primary School, Aghacommon, Lurgan, County Armagh

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (503-1168)

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Patrick's Primary School, Lurgan, County Armagh (503-1168)

Introduction

The previous inspection in May 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. In the interim, a co-ordinator for information and communication technology (ICT) has been appointed in 2017. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 3 June 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 school leadership co-operated with the inspection team in relation to 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

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning. The school also provided evidence of the provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The line of inquiry during the SII was:

- to develop further the provision for information and communication technology (ICT) through the curriculum to enhance the children's learning.

Key findings

- The leadership team has made good progress in the extensive planning for the integration of ICT throughout the curriculum, particularly for topic work. The staff development opportunities for ICT are linked appropriately to the school development plan and associated action plan. The children experience a wide range of opportunities for using ICT, for example, a green screen area, a computer room and resource area where they can research their own topics, and they have begun to self-evaluate their work in ICT.
- A group of year 7 children spoke with enthusiasm about their opportunities for researching topics, such as, the Victorians and the Titanic, and preparing Power Points to present at assembly regarding their experiences during their time at the school.
- A group of year 6 children report that they have very good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through their roles as 'digital leaders', helping other children with ICT, and as 'playground and bus officials' by helping other children stay safe when playing and travelling to and from school.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- 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. A group of year 6 children explained that they understand a range of strategies for keeping safe, including staying safe when online. The children know who to talk to if they have any concerns about their well-being and safety. 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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