

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Termoncanice Primary School, Limavady, County Derry

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (203-2287)

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

Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Termoncanice Primary School, Limavady, County Derry (203-2287)

Introduction

The previous inspection in May 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Termoncanice Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. In the interim: there has been a redefinition and redistribution of roles and responsibilities of the senior leadership team and co-ordinators including a period of acting-up; and, an increase of intake by almost one-fifth. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 9 May 2019. During the inspection, the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) met with a representative of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) in relation to leadership and management within the school.

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 inspection. The acting-principal and designated teacher for child protection co-operated with the inspector 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
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The group of year 6 children reported, during a discussion with the inspector, that they have good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through their roles in, for example, the School Council and 'Gamechangers'. They particularly enjoy the wide variety of sporting and educational trips organised for them. The children commented on the shared education partnership with a local controlled school; they spoke about how it has provided them with opportunities to meet new friends and engage in enjoyable learning experiences.
- The current school development plan has been developed in consultation with the wider school community, including the analysis of the school's internal data, and identifies appropriate actions for improvement. There has been a recent, systematic review of the safeguarding and child protection policies.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- 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. The group of year 6 children, with whom the inspector met, reported 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. 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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