

# Education and Training Inspectorate

## PRIMARY INSPECTION



Windsor Hill Primary School, Newry, County Down

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No: 501-6451

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in February 2020

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in January 2017 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Windsor Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 26 February 2020.

The trade unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute, and also workload and other management issues. The industrial action 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 not be co-operating with the inspection. The senior leadership co-operated with the inspection team in relation to their 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**

- A group of children from year 6, who met with the inspector, were very courteous, friendly and immensely proud of their school. They talked very positively about their learning and experiences in the school. The children highlighted, in particular: their enjoyment of the wide range of extra-curricular activities provided for them; the very good opportunities they have to undertake leadership roles through the school and eco-councils, as 'playground buddies' and 'anti-bullying ambassadors'; and, the pastoral support they receive from all the staff.
- 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 issued by the Department of Education. The 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 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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