

Education and Training Inspectorate

Report of a Follow-up Inspection

Park Education Resource Centre Belfast

March 2016

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF PARK SCHOOL AND RESOURCE CENTRE, BELFAST, (131-6500)

The original inspection carried out in November 2014¹ concluded that in almost all of the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school was inadequate. The areas for improvement outweighed the strengths in the provision. The areas of improvement included the need to:

- improve the strategic planning at all levels in the school;
- review and improve the whole school planning, monitoring and evaluation of the learning experiences and outcomes for the pupils; and
- provide consistently high quality teaching in all classes throughout the school.

As a consequence, the Department of Education entered the school into the formal intervention process under the Every School a Good School policy on 1 December 2014.

In the interval since the inspection, the following actions which affect the work of the school have taken place:

- The principal of the school resigned in December 2015. At the time of the follow-up inspection, the vice-principal and two teachers were on long-term sick leave and a member of the senior leadership team was acting principal.
- The pupil enrolment has fallen slightly from 123 for 2014/15 to 119 at the time of the follow-up inspection.
- The Education Authority has provided support for school development planning and planning for learning.
- The acting principal is the school's deputy designated teacher. At the time of the follow-up inspection, there was no member of staff trained in the role of designated teacher. The ETI will return to the school within six working weeks to monitor progress in addressing the safeguarding training issue.

Key findings

The quality and effectiveness of leadership, management and action to promote improvement remains an area for improvement.

The school is beginning to address the key factors that will lead to improvement in leadership. The acting principal identified clearly the need to make further use of school data, undertake first hand observations of pupil learning, and to evaluate more effectively the quality of the pupil's work.

The quality of learning and teaching is now good.

In the most effective practice observed, there was active learning with good use of resources based on pupils' interests, and good use of the local environment and resources. There remains a need for all of the staff to engage with the dissemination and adoption of the effective practice within the school for learning and teaching. The planning for learning remains inconsistent; the development work in this area undertaken by teachers needs to embed further and demonstrate more clearly evidence of impact in raising standards.

¹ <http://www.etini.gov.uk/index/inspection-reports/inspection-reports-special-education/inspection-reports-special-education-2015/special-inspection-park-school-and-education-resource-centre.pdf>

The standards and achievements remain an area for improvement.

The standard of work produced by the pupils varies in quality; the monitoring and assessment of learning needs to improve. The provision for careers education needs to improve, the pupils do not have a clear understanding of the opportunities available to them on leaving school, or the routes and qualifications required for further education or work.

Overall effectiveness

In the areas inspected the school has demonstrated improvement. The school, however, needs to continue to address important areas for improvement in the interests of the learners. The areas for improvement include the need to:

- develop further the strategic planning of the school, and the provision for careers education;
- review and improve the monitoring and evaluation of the learning, and outcomes of the pupils; and
- ensure that an additional member of staff is trained in safeguarding procedures within a six week period of the date of the follow-up inspection.

The ETI will continue to monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas of improvement. A further follow-up inspection will be carried out in 12-18 months.

The ETI will return to the school within six working weeks to monitor progress in addressing the safeguarding training issue.

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