

eti

*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

**Providing Inspection Services for
Department of Education
Department for Employment and Learning
Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure**



Education and Training Inspectorate

**Kirkistown Primary School
Cloughey**

Inspection Letter

May 2012

**INSPECTION OF KIRKISTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLOUGHEY (401-1373)
- 28-30 MAY 2012**

INSPECTION LETTER

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) notified Kirkistown Primary School of its forthcoming inspection scheduled for 28-30 May 2012. Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that over one-half of its teachers would not be co-operating with the Inspectors on advice from one of the teaching unions. The teachers are involved in action short of strike in relation to pay, pensions and terms and conditions of employment and reductions in the education budget. The action is not connected with the inspection process itself. Where the inspection is not carried out in full, parents and stakeholders have no complete external evaluation of the quality of education being provided by the school.

The Inspectors spent two days in the school on the 28 and 29 May and were able to:

- observe a number of lessons;
- examine samples of the children's books from a minority of the classes;
- scrutinise the majority of the school's written documentation;
- discuss arrangements for child protection, pastoral care and healthy eating with a group of the year 6 children;
- discuss the leadership and management of the school and other aspects of the school's provision with the Principal and the development of a key curricular area under focus with a co-ordinator;
- analyse the school's performance in the end of key stage assessments over the past four years;
- scrutinise the school's internal assessment data on the attainment and progress of the children; and
- observe the children as they went about the school, in the playground and in just under one-half of the classes.

Due to the non co-operation of a majority of the teachers, the Inspectors were not able to assess fully the quality of the children's learning in order to identify areas where provision is strong or where improvements are needed. They were not able to:

- observe learning and teaching in over one-half of the classes;
- observe directly the children at work or to talk to them about their work in over one-half of the classes;
- evaluate the quality of the provision made for the children with special educational needs (SEN);

- examine samples of the children's books from a majority of the classes; and
- discuss the development of a key curricular area under focus with the co-ordinator.

CONCLUSION

The school's inspection is incomplete. The ETI will return as soon as possible and with little or no additional notice to complete the inspection and to issue a published report. This will include undertaking all the aspects of the inspection which were not possible during this inspection.

The ETI has reported its findings from the two-day visit to the Board of Governors (governors), the Principal and an officer from the South Eastern Education and Library Board. Any areas for improvement identified during this incomplete inspection have been mediated to the school enabling the school to begin addressing them in the interim.

On the basis of the evidence available at the time of the inspection the school has satisfactory arrangements in place for safeguarding the children. These arrangements broadly reflect the guidance issued by the Department of Education but the school needs to:

- improve the arrangements for communicating with the governors about safeguarding activities, and
- ensure that all governors sitting on interview panels have received specific training on the recruiting and vetting of staff.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- The low wall separating the play area at the front of the school from the busy main road is a potential hazard.
- The arrangements for setting down and picking up pupils at key times are unsuitable.
- The lack of a crossing patrol at a dangerous road junction outside the school is a potential risk.

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