



*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**

**St Colman's Primary School and All Saints Nursery Unit  
Annaclone**

**Inspection Letter**

**February 2012**

**INSPECTION OF ST COLMAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ALL SAINTS NURSERY  
UNIT, ANNACLONE (503-6061) - 21-23 FEBRUARY 2012**

**INSPECTION LETTER**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) notified St Colman's Primary School and All Saints Nursery Unit of its forthcoming inspection scheduled for 21-23 February 2012. Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that half of its teachers would not be co-operating with the Inspectors on advice from two 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 Inspectors spent three days in the school on the above dates and were able to:

- observe a number of lessons;
- examine samples of the children's books from each 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 and 7 children;
- discuss the leadership and management of the school with the Principal and the provision for information and communication technology (ICT) with the co-ordinator;
- analyse the school's performance in the end of key stage assessments over the past four years; and
- observe the children as they went about the school, in half of the classes, and in the playground.

Owing to the non co-operation of half of the teachers, the Inspectors were not able to assess fully the quality of learning for the children to identify areas where provision is strong or where improvements are needed. They were not able to:

- observe learning and teaching in half of the classes;
- observe directly the children at work or to talk to them about their work in half of the classes;
- evaluate the quality of the provision made for the children with special educational needs (SEN);
- discuss the development of the key curricular areas under focus with the co-ordinators; and
- discuss the leadership and management of the school with the Vice-principal and the co-ordinators of literacy, numeracy and SEN.

## 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 three day visit to the Board of Governors, the Principal and representatives from the Employing Authority and the Southern 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. The school has provided the ETI with written assurances that the school's arrangements for the safeguarding of the children comply fully with the Department of Education's (DE) requirements.

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