



*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 Mary's Primary School
Saintfield**

Inspection Letter

May 2012

**INSPECTION OF ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, SAINTFIELD (403-1672) -
15-16 MAY 2012**

INSPECTION LETTER

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) notified St Mary's Primary School of its forthcoming inspection scheduled for 15 and 16 May, 2012. Prior to the inspection, the school informed ETI that none of the teachers would be co-operating with the Inspectors on advice from their trade union. 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.

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

- observe learning and teaching in any of the classes;
- observe directly the children at work or to talk to them about their work;
- examine samples of the children's books;
- evaluate the quality of the provision made for the children with special educational needs;
- scrutinise the school's internal assessment data on the attainment and progress of the children;
- discuss the development of the key curricular areas under focus with the co-ordinators;
- discuss the leadership and management of the school with the Principal; and
- elicit the views of the parents through the parental questionnaire normally distributed by the school.

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 school has provided ETI with verbal assurances that the school's arrangements for the safeguarding of the children comply with the Department of Education's (DE) requirements.

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