

**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**

**St Patrick's Primary School  
Donaghmore**

**Inspection Letter**

**March 2012**

**INSPECTION OF ST PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, DONAGHMORE (503-2678) -  
12 MARCH 2012**

**INSPECTION LETTER**

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) notified St Patrick's Primary School, Donaghmore of its forthcoming inspection scheduled for the week beginning 12 March 2012. Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that almost all 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 Inspectors spent two days in the school on the 12 and 13 March and were able to:

- observe a few sessions in which children with special educational needs (SEN) were withdrawn for additional support;
- scrutinise a 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;
- scrutinise the school's internal assessment data on the attainment and progress of the children;
- analyse the school's performance in end of key stage assessments over the past four years;
- elicit the views of the parents through the parental questionnaire;
- observe the children as they went about the school, in SEN withdrawal sessions and in the playground;
- carry out interviews with the co-ordinator for information and communication technology (ICT), the special educational needs co-ordinator the assessment co-ordinator and the deputy designated teacher for child protection;
- discuss the leadership and management of the school with the Principal; and
- meet with the Board of Governors (governors).

Owing to the non co-operation 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 any of the classes;
- examine samples of the children's books from any of the classes;
- observe directly the children at work or to talk to them about their work;

- evaluate the quality of the provision made for the children with SEN within classrooms; or
- discuss the development of the key curricular areas under focus with the co-ordinators.

## 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 governors, the Principal, an officer from the Southern Education and Library Board and a representative of the employing authority. 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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