

Education and Training Inspectorate PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Hollywood Nursery School, Hollywood, County Down

Controlled Nursery School DE Ref No: 411-0030

Report of a Follow-up Inspection (involving Action Short of Strike) in
January 2020



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF HOLYWOOD NURSERY SCHOOL, HOLYWOOD, COUNTY DOWN, BT18 9BU (411-0030)

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Hollywood Nursery School in June 2018, which concluded that the school needed to address important areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement included the need to:

- develop further the children's concentrated play, perseverance, creativity, imagination and problem solving;
- develop the written planning and use of assessment methods to identify more clearly the role of the adult and improve the quality of the children's learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum both indoors and outdoors; and
- ensure the self-evaluation processes focus more effectively on the impact of the actions taken to improve the quality of the children's learning and development.

The nursery school's action plans were of a good quality and the development plan was adjusted in light of the inspection findings. The ETI carried out a monitoring visit in November 2018 and an interim follow-up visit in March 2019.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the Nursery School received external support provided by an officer from the Education Authority, in relation to: developing the play provision, planning and self-evaluation.

The ETI carried out a follow-up inspection in January 2020.

The trade unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute, and also workload and other management issues). This includes non-co-operation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that the teachers would not be engaging with the inspection. The ETI has a statutory duty to monitor, inspect and report on the quality of education under Article 102 of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Therefore, the inspection proceeded and the following evaluations are based on the evidence as made available at the time of the inspection.

Key findings

Owing to action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate the impact of actions taken and the extent to which the following important areas for improvement have been addressed:

- develop further the children's concentrated play, perseverance, creativity, imagination and problem solving;
- develop the written planning and use of assessment methods to identify more clearly the role of the adult and improve the quality of the children's learning across all areas of the pre-school curriculum both indoors and outdoors; and
- ensure the self-evaluation processes focus more effectively on the impact of the actions taken to improve the quality of the children's learning and development.

Consequently, there remains a need for Hollywood Nursery School to address the important areas for improvement¹.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection.

Further action will be considered by the Department of Education.

¹ The Department of Education will seek assurance from the Education Authority that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

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