

# Education and Training Inspectorate

## PRIMARY INSPECTION



Carnalbanagh Primary School, Ballymena, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (301-0470)

Report of a Monitoring Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in May 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **Monitoring Inspection of Carnalbanagh Primary School, Ballymena, County Antrim (301-0470)**

### **Introduction**

The aim of the Monitoring Inspection is to evaluate the extent to which the leadership and management uses self-evaluation effectively to inform the development planning process to bring about improvement. The outcome of the inspection will inform future inspection activity.

Four of the teaching unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute. This includes non-co-operation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The principal co-operated with the inspection team in relation to safeguarding responsibilities. 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.

### **Focus of the inspection**

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to focus on evaluating action to promote improvement and its impact on learning and teaching and outcomes for learners;
- lines of inquiry were not selected from the development plan priorities; and
- the school did not demonstrate if and how the actions taken have led to improvement for the learners.

### **Key findings**

- The inspector met with a group of year 6 and year 7 children who spoke very positively about all aspects of school life. They highlighted their enjoyment of participating in the range of after-school activities offered in the school, for example: football; gardening; Heartstart; science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) activities, and Scripture Union. The children articulate well the role they play in decision-making and appreciate the opportunities they have to develop their leadership skills through the School- and Eco-School Councils.
- It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and school budget in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

### **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education (DE). The inspector met with a group of year 6 and year 7 children; they reported that they feel very safe in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. They have an excellent understanding of how to stay safe online. However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

The school needs to:

- review the pastoral care policy; and
- implement consistently a robust system for completing risk assessments.

### **Conclusion**

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the staff, 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 with no further notice.

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