

PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Sandbrook Nursery School,
Belfast

Controlled Nursery School

Report of an inspection (Involving
Action Short of Strike) in
April 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

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INTRODUCTION

1. Context

Sandbrook Nursery School is a controlled nursery situated in east Belfast. The nursery comprises two full-time classes in purpose-built accommodation. At the time of the inspection the two assistant teachers were sharing the role of acting principal, in the absence of the principal. Three governors had recently resigned.

Four of the teaching unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared strike action/Action Short of Strike (ASoS) in relation to a pay dispute. This includes non-co-operation with the ETI. Prior to the inspection, the nursery informed the ETI that the principal and the assistant teacher would not be co-operating with the inspectors. The ETI have 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 available at the time of the inspection.

Number of children:	Class 1	Class 2
Attending full-time	<u>No data supplied</u>	<u>No data supplied</u>
Attending part-time		
Under 3 years of age*		
Funded by Department of Education		
With statement of special educational needs		
Without a statement but receiving therapy or support from other professionals for special educational needs		
At CoP stages 3 or 4**		
At CoP stages 1 or 2**		
With English as an additional language		
Who left in previous school year to attend reception provision within a primary school		

Percentage qualifying under DE admission criteria 1 or 2.	
Average attendance for the previous year.	
Number of days open in previous school year	

Source: no data provided by the setting.

* On 1 July.

** The stages refer to those set out in the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs.

The school did not provide data requested by the ETI.

2. Views of parents and staff

As a result of the ASoS, the nursery did not distribute the online questionnaire information to parents and staff. Therefore it is not possible to report on the views of parents and staff.

3. Focus of the inspection

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the outcomes for learners;
- the quality of the provision; and
- leadership and management.

4. Overall findings of the inspection

Overall effectiveness	Unable to assure the quality of education
Outcomes for learners	No performance level available
Quality of provision	No performance level available
Leadership and management	No performance level available

KEY FINDINGS

5. Outcomes for learners

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the standards attained by the children;
- progression in the children's learning; and
- the children's wider skills and dispositions.

6. Quality of provision

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the quality of the curriculum (including breadth, balance and appropriateness);
- the effectiveness of the guidance and support in bringing about high quality individual learning experiences;
- the effectiveness and impact of planning, teaching, learning and assessment in promoting successful learning; and
- care and welfare.

7. Leadership and management

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the effectiveness of strategic leadership and governance;
- the effectiveness and impact of middle leadership; and
- the effectiveness of action to promote and sustain improvement (including self-evaluation and the development planning process).

The school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements are in place for safeguarding learners.

Owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school. However, based on the evidence available at the time of the inspection (and noting that work is underway on addressing the following issues), the areas that require urgent improvement include:

- update training for all governors on child-protection and safeguarding;
- the review and revision of key policies which are out of date; and
- the governors to complete the review of child-protection and safeguarding policy and practice.

CONCLUSION

8. Overall effectiveness

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the acting-principals, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education and safeguarding being provided for the children. The nursery is a high priority for future inspection with no further notification.

The ETI will return to the nursery within six weeks to evaluate and report on the arrangements for safeguarding.

Information on sessions and staff

Duration of sessions: no data was provided by the nursery.

Full-time	Part-time: am	Part-time: pm

Details of staff: no data was provided by the setting

Number of:	Full-time	Part-time
Staff including, Teachers/Leaders		
Number of staff holding a recognised child care qualification		
Number of staff holding a recognised teaching qualification		
New appointments within the previous 12 months		

Number of: *	
Students	
Trainees	

Source: data provided by the setting.

* Total placements since September of current year

Inspection method and evidence base

The effective practice and self-evaluation questions which guide inspection and self-evaluation of pre-school settings, which were applied to this inspection, are available in the ETI publication *The Pre-school Inspection and Self-Evaluation Framework*.

Reporting terms used by the Education and Training Inspectorate

Quantitative terms

In this report, proportions may be described as percentages, common fractions and in more general quantitative terms. Where more general terms are used, they should be interpreted as follows:

Almost/nearly all	-	more than 90%
Most	-	75% - 90%
A majority	-	50% - 74%
A significant minority	-	30% - 49%
A minority	-	10% - 29%
Very few/a small number	-	less than 10%

Performance levels

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) use the following performance levels when reporting on Achievement and standards, on Provision for learning and on Leadership and management:

Outstanding
Very good
Good
Important area(s) for improvement
Requires significant improvement
Requires urgent improvement

Overall effectiveness

The ETI use one of the following inspection outcomes when evaluating the overall effectiveness of the school:

The school has a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.
The school demonstrates the capacity to identify and bring about improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor how the school sustains improvement.
The school needs to address (an) important area(s) for improvement in the interest of all the learners. The ETI will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the area(s) for improvement. There will be a formal follow-up inspection.
The school needs to address urgently the significant areas for improvement identified in the interest of all the learners. It requires external support to do so. The ETI will monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the areas for improvement. There will be a formal follow-up inspection.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF SANDBROOK NURSERY SCHOOL IN APRIL 2017

SAFEGUARDING

The ETI returned to the nursery on 16 June 2017 to monitor and report on arrangements for safeguarding.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the nursery with a further opportunity to provide evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding; owing to action short of strike, the nursery did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements were in place at the time of the original inspection on 3 April 2017.

Owing to the ongoing action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the nursery.

During the follow-up visit, the nursery provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. Work on the following aspects is underway and needs to be completed:

- the draft policies for Anti-bullying, Positive Behaviour and Health and Safety need to be finalised and ratified by the governors.

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