

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Mary's Primary School, Killesher, County Fermanagh

Maintained, co-educational DE ref no (203-1884)

Report of an Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in
January 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



CONTENTS

SECTION	PAGE
1. Context	1
2. Children's, parents' and staff questionnaire responses	1
3. Focus of the inspection	1
4. Overall findings of the inspection	1
5. Outcomes for learners	1
6. Quality of provision	2
7. Leadership and management	2
8. Safeguarding	3
9. Overall effectiveness	3

APPENDICES

- A. Health and safety/Accommodation
- B. Inspection methodology and evidence base
- C. Reporting terms used by the Education and Training Inspectorate

INTRODUCTION

1. Context

St Mary's Primary School is a maintained primary school situated in the rural area, eight miles from Enniskillen, County Fermanagh. All of the children attending the school come from the local and wider surrounding areas. The school reports that the enrolment is steady and stands at 79 children. The school is in a shared education partnership with three other schools.

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 and designated teacher co-operated with the inspection team in relation to their 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.

2. Children's, parents' and staff questionnaire responses

As a result of the action short of strike, the school did not distribute the online, confidential questionnaire information to children, parents and staff. Therefore, it is not possible to report on the views of children, parents and staff.

3. Focus of the inspection

The ETI was unable to evaluate the:

- outcomes for children with a particular focus on numeracy;
- quality of provision with a particular focus on numeracy including across the curriculum; and
- quality of 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 learning outcomes for the children, including those who require additional support with aspects of their learning;
- progression in the children's learning; and
- the children's wider skills and dispositions.

6. Quality of provision

- In discussion with the inspectors, a group of year 6 and 7 children spoke confidently about their enjoyment of learning across the mathematics, arts and physical education curriculum.
- The children explained that, through the shared education partnership, they had developed further their problem-solving numeracy and social skills within the meaningful context of orienteering in a local National Trust facility. The children have opportunities to take on roles of responsibilities on the School Council. They described how leadership opportunities support them in understanding the importance of fairness, diversity and giving all a voice in contributing to decision-making about matters that affect them in school. There is a recent display of work by the children, across all classes, on the theme of diversity. The children report that the awards system and the incentives motivates them to make progress in learning. A small number of children who joined the school in the past two years reported that they were welcomed, settled and had quickly developed friendships. The children have the opportunity to develop skills in sport and drama and have performed as the school choir in the local church.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the quality of the curriculum;
- 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 leadership reported that there are staff development opportunities for the promotion of good practice in safeguarding, arising through collaborative evaluation of safeguarding policies and procedures in the shared education partnership. Monitoring of safeguarding is carried out systematically within the school; and, there is an appropriate schedule for the further review and development of the safeguarding policies.
- 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.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the effectiveness of strategic leadership and governance;
- the effectiveness and impact of middle leadership; and
- the effectiveness of action to promote and sustain improvement.

8. Safeguarding

- During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education.
- A group of year 6 children highlighted the happy and supportive ethos in their school; they reported that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. 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.

9. Overall effectiveness

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.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

1. The perimeter fence is too low in the playground at the back of the school to secure fully the potential access to or from the school.

Inspection methodology and evidence base

The ETI's Inspection and Self-Evaluation Framework is available on the ETI website: [The Inspection and Self-Evaluation Framework \(ISEF\): Effective Practice and Self-Evaluation Questions for Primary | Education Training Inspectorate](#)

Inspectors observe learning and teaching, scrutinise documentation and the children's written work and hold formal and informal discussions with children, teachers and staff with specific responsibilities.

The arrangements for inspection include:

- a meeting with a representative from the governors;
- meetings with groups of children; and
- the opportunity for the children, parents, teaching and support staff to complete an online, confidential questionnaire.

The arrangements for this inspection included:

- a meeting with the principal and designated teacher in relation to their safeguarding responsibilities; and
- a discussion with year 6 and 7 children regarding safeguarding and child protection matters.

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 ETI use the following performance levels when reporting on outcomes for learners, quality of provision and leadership and management¹:

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

The ETI use the following levels when reporting on governance:

High degree of confidence
Confidence
Limited confidence

The ETI use the following levels when reporting on safeguarding:

Reflects the guidance
Reflects broadly the guidance
Unsatisfactory

The ETI use the following levels when reporting on care and welfare:

Impacts positively on learning, teaching and outcomes for learners.
Does not impact positively enough on learning, teaching and outcomes for learners.

¹ And the overall provision in a unit, as applicable.

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 in 12 to 18 months.
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 in 18 to 24 months.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2019

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk