

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School,  
Forkhill, County Armagh

Maintained, co-educational

Report of an Inspection (Involving  
Action Short of Strike)  
in May 2018

*eti*

The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
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## INTRODUCTION

### 1. Context

St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School is a maintained primary school situated in Forkhill, County Armagh. All of the children attending the school come from the village and surrounding rural area. The school is a recognised Forest School and is also involved in other initiatives including Eco-Schools, 'Grow Your Own Picnic,' South Armagh Extended Schools Cluster and the Michael J. Murphy, 'Generations Project'<sup>1</sup>.

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 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.

St Oliver Plunkett's Primary School	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Enrolment	141	142	143	145
% Attendance	96.9	95.5	96.1	N/A
% NI Primary School Average	95.4%	95.5%	95.5%	N/A
Percentage of children entitled to Free School Meals (FSM)	34	38.7	32.9	33.1
No. of children on SEN register	29	26	33	22
% of children on SEN register	20.6	18.3	23.1	15.2
No. of children with statements of educational needs	*	*	*	*
No. of newcomers	*	*	*	0

**Source:** data as held by the school.

\* fewer than 5

N/A not available

### 2. Views of parents and staff

As a result of the action short of strike, the school did not distribute the confidential, 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:

- outcomes for children with a particular focus on literacy including across the curriculum;
- quality of provision with a particular focus on literacy; and
- quality of leadership and management.

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<sup>1</sup> A project that develops the children's awareness of local history and folklore.

#### 4. Overall findings of the inspection

<b>Overall effectiveness</b>	Unable to assure of the quality of education
<b>Outcomes for learners</b>	No performance level available
<b>Quality of provision</b>	No performance level available
<b>Leadership and management</b>	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 children from years 6 and 7 reported that they enjoy a wide range of additional learning opportunities such as trips, after-school activities and competitions. The children recognise and appreciate the fact that they are able to contribute their views and ideas about school life; they provided examples of how their opinions are listened to, valued and acted upon by staff. The children have numerous opportunities to develop their leadership skills by taking on roles such as digital, Eco- and School- Council leaders.

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 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.

## **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 children from years 6 and 7 reported that they feel safe in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. 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.

## 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 parents, teaching and support staff to complete a confidential, online questionnaire.

Where, owing to the action short of strike, this evidence base was not available, it has been referenced in the body of the inspection report.

The arrangements for this inspection included:

- a meeting with a representative from the governors;
- meetings with the principal, the designated teacher for safeguarding and the literacy and numeracy co-ordinators;
- a meeting with a group of children from years 6 and 7; and
- an opportunity to read documentation presented as supporting evidence of the safeguarding arrangements.

## 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 management<sup>2</sup>:

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 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.

<sup>2</sup> And the overall provision in a unit, as applicable.

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