

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Abercorn Primary School,  
Banbridge, County Down

Controlled, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement  
Inspection (Involving Action Short of  
Strike) in May 2017



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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CUSTOMER  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Abercorn Primary School, Banbridge, County Down (501-1594)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Abercorn Primary School as outstanding<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 22 May 2017.

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.

## **Focus of the inspection**

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning. The school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The line of inquiry during the SII was:

- to develop further the children's talking and listening skills across the school.

## **Key findings**

- There is evidence of appropriate, ongoing improvement work in the school informed through the robust analysis of data and high quality self-evaluation.
- A small group of children from year 7, who met with the inspectors, displayed a high level of interest in, and enjoyment of, literacy. The children are enthusiastic and very competent readers; they read with fluency and understanding and, discuss confidently the books they enjoy.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the line of inquiry fully; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

## **Safeguarding**

- During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The children, with whom inspectors met, reported that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of 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.

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<sup>1</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

## **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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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