

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Broughshane Primary School,  
Ballymena, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Broughshane Primary School, Ballymena, County Antrim (301-3310)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in June 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Broughshane Primary School as very good<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 27 November 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 the teachers and principal would not 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**

Owing to the school's participation in industrial action:

- the inspection was unable to focus on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

## **Key findings**

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

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

## **Safeguarding**

During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding reflect or reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education<sup>2</sup>.

## **Conclusion**

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the principal and teachers, 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 school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> The Department of Education will seek assurance from the Education Authority that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

## **ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF BROUGHSHANE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN NOVEMBER 2017**

The ETI returned to the school on 8 February 2018 to monitor and report on arrangements for safeguarding.

The purpose of the visit was to provide the school with a further opportunity to provide evidence on its arrangements for safeguarding: owing to action short of strike, the school did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect or reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education were in place at the time of the sustaining improvement inspection on 27 November 2017.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. In discussion with the inspectors, a group of children from year 6 reported that they feel safe, happy and cared for in school; they know what to do if they have any concerns about their wellbeing. The children spoke enthusiastically and maturely about: the ways in which they take on roles of responsibility in the school; their understanding of how to keep safe online; and, the various means of support available to them should they wish to express a concern.

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