

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Derryhale Primary School,
Portadown, County Armagh

Controlled, co-educational

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

eti

The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Derryhale Primary School, Portadown, County Armagh, (501-1157)

Introduction

The previous inspection in February 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Derryhale Primary School as very good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 9 February 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 including the principal 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

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 enquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

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

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.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that satisfactory arrangements are in place for safeguarding learners.

Conclusion

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 and safeguarding being provided for the children. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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

¹ 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.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE SUSTAINING IMPROVEMENT INSPECTION OF DERRYHALE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN FEBRUARY 2017

The ETI returned to the school on the 20 March 2017 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 satisfactory arrangements were in place at the time of the sustaining improvement inspection on 9 February 2017.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education. The children reported that they feel safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being.

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