

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Drumrane Primary School,
Dungiven, County Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Drumrane Primary School, Dungiven (201-6656)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Drumrane Primary School as good¹. In the interim, there has been an increase of 14% in its enrolment. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 4 April 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

Due to the non-participation of the principal and teachers in the inspection process, no key findings can be reported.

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, and 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 monitor and report on the arrangements for safeguarding.

¹ A school previously evaluated as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE PRIMARY INSPECTION OF DRUMRANE PRIMARY SCHOOL IN APRIL 2017

The ETI returned to the school on 30 May to 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 inspection on 4 April 2017.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

In discussion, the year 6 children reported that they feel safe and secure in school, and they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. The children spoke very positively about the rewards system and the respectful relationships being nurtured throughout the school community.

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