

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Forge Integrated Primary School, Belfast

Controlled integrated, co-educational DE Ref No: 105-6535

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in October 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Forge Integrated Primary School, Belfast (105-6535)

Introduction

The previous inspection in October 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Forge Integrated Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement to identify and bring about improvement. The school is engaged in a shared education partnership with a local school. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 21 October 2019.

The trade unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute, and also workload and other management issues. The industrial action 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 inspection. The members of the safeguarding team co-operated with the inspection in relation to safeguarding responsibilities. The ETI has a statutory duty to monitor, inspect and report on the standards of education and professional practice among teachers 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The group of year 6 children spoke positively about their learning experiences and report that they have good opportunities to develop their leadership capabilities through their roles in the school and eco-councils.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

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

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. The children report 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 welfare and are aware of how to remain safe online. 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.

The school needs to:

- maintain its schedule of review to ensure the policies reflect the Department of Education's current requirements; and
- ensure that the governors complete the relevant child protection training.

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

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