

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Gaelscoil na Daróige,  
Doire/Derry

Irish-medium, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Gaelscoil na Daróige, Derry (204-6687)**

### **Introduction**

The follow-up inspection in June 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Gaelscoil na Daróige as good<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 5 June 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 and sustain improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

The ETI was unable to evaluate the progress being made in addressing an area for improvement from the follow-up inspection in 2014, namely, the need for the principal to continue to embed the well-developed processes for monitoring and self evaluation.

### **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 satisfactory arrangements are in place for safeguarding learners.

### **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, 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 also return to the school within six weeks to monitor and report on the arrangements for safeguarding.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 SUSTAINING IMPROVEMENT INSPECTION OF GAELSCOIL NA DARÓIGE IN JUNE 2017**

### **SAFEGUARDING**

The ETI returned to the school on 10 November 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 about safeguarding arrangements at the time of the sustaining improvement inspection on 5 June 2017.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education.

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, including talking to the children.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

There is a need for the school to review the lighting and condition of the footpath at the entrance to the school grounds.

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