

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Gorran Primary School, Coleraine, County Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No: 301-6055

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in February 2020



The Education and Training Inspectorate
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Introduction

The previous inspection in December 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Gorran Primary School and Nursery Unit as having high level of capacity for sustained improvement. Since the last inspection, there has been a change to the senior leadership in February 2019. All of the children now benefit from a shared education partnership with a nearby maintained primary school in Boleran, which is just over three miles north-west of Garvagh. The school has attained the Eco Schools Green Flag Award and the current enrolment remains steady, over the longer term, at around 90 children. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 13 February 2020.

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. This includes non-co-operation with the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that the senior leadership and designated teacher would be co-operating with the inspection in relation to their safeguarding responsibilities. 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- A group of children from year 7, who met with the inspectors, spoke confidently and very positively about the school's provision. In particular, they expressed an enjoyment of reading, aspects of mathematics and science and they spoke enthusiastically about the extra-curricular provision.
- The children were friendly and spoke well about the many opportunities the school provides them to develop leadership roles, including those within the school council, eco council and as 'learning buddies.'
- 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.

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. In discussions with the inspectors, the group of year 6 children stated that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. The children are well informed about how to stay safe online. However, owing to the action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

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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