

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Holy Family Primary School and  
Nursery Unit, Belfast

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
and other commissioning Departments





## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Holy Family Primary School and Nursery Unit, Belfast (103-6566)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in May 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Holy Family Primary School as outstanding; the follow-up inspection of the nursery provision, in June 2015, was evaluated as very good<sup>1</sup>. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 11 May 2017.

Four of the teaching unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council have declared Action Short of Strike in relation to a pay dispute. This included non-co-operation with ETI. Prior to the inspection, the school informed ETI that none of the teachers 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 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 bring about improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

### **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 provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding reflect the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. A group of year six children report that they feel safe and secure in school and know who to go to if they have any concerns.

### **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, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the children. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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