

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Jonesborough Primary School,
Newry, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in January 2018



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Jonesborough Primary School, Newry, County Down (503-6122)

Introduction

The previous inspection in September, 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Jonesborough Primary School as very good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 10 January 2018.

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 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

The inspection focused on evaluating the extent to which the school is capable of demonstrating its capacity to effect improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning.

The lines of inquiry during the SII were:

- to improve the provision for mental mathematics; and
- develop further the school's processes for self-evaluation.

Key findings

- In discussion with the ETI, a group of year 6 and 7 children spoke confidently about their learning experiences in mental mathematics. Actions to promote improvement and enhance the school's provision for mental mathematics have included: significant staff development; more effective planning for mental mathematics; the purchase and effective use of new resources; and, booster sessions for children who are underachieving in this area.
- The school has continued to develop its collaborative approach to self-evaluation, through clear action planning, the introduction of new processes to monitor the children's learning and very good levels of reflection on, and evaluation of, the actions taken to promote improvement.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. During the discussion with a group of children from year 6-7, the children reported that they enjoy their learning, feel safe and secure within the school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.

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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

Health and safety/Accommodation

1. There is currently very limited play space for the children in the school; the school has raised concerns about this matter with the relevant authorities.

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