

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Kilmoyle Primary School,
Ballymoney, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Kilmoyle Primary School, Ballymoney, County Antrim (301-0878)

Introduction

The previous inspection in March 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Kilmoyle Primary School as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 24 October 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 all of the teachers, including the acting- principal, would not 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 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.
- 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.

Safeguarding

- During the inspection, the school did not provide evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect or reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education.²

¹ A school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

² The Department of Education will seek assurance from the Education Authority that they are working with the school in relation to the inspection report.

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

The ETI will return to the school within six weeks to evaluate the progress in addressing the arrangements for safeguarding.

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT ON THE INSPECTION OF KILMOYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL, BALLYMONEY (301-0878) IN OCTOBER 2017

SAFEGUARDING

The ETI returned to the school on 15 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 that arrangements were in place at the time of the inspection on 24 October 2017.

During the follow-up visit, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the Department of Education. There is a need to complete promptly the review of outstanding policies.

In discussions with the ETI, the children in year 6 and 7 spoke very positively about how well they are supported by school staff and how they enjoy their learning experiences and the wide variety of extra-curricular activities available. They reported that they feel safe and are aware of what to do if they are concerned about their welfare or safety.

Owing to the ongoing action short of strike, the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the outworking of the arrangements for safeguarding in the school.

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