

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Kilross Primary School, Tobermore, County Londonderry

Controlled, co-educational DE ref no (301-3703)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in January 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Kilross Primary School, Tobermore, County Londonderry (301-3703)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Kilross Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. In the interim, there has been a change in leadership with the appointment of a new principal. The school participates in a shared education partnership with a local Irish Medium school. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 28 January 2019.

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 school co-operated with the inspection team 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
- 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 children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. In discussion with a group of year 6 and year 7 children, they reported that they feel safe in school and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. The children know how to keep safe online, when at school or at home. The school is reviewing appropriately and consulting with stakeholders about its pastoral care policies; it will be important that these are ratified at the next/subsequent meetings of the board of governors.

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.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the 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. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

Health and safety/Accommodation

There are boundaries to the school site without secure fencing. It will be essential that the school continues to risk assess and incorporate risk reduction measures to minimise risk.

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