

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Leaney Primary School, Ballymoney, County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational DE Ref No (301-3325)

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Leaney Primary School, Ballymoney, County Antrim (301-3325)

Introduction

The previous inspection in May 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Leaney Primary School as having the capacity to demonstrate and bring about improvement. In the interim, there has been a change in senior leadership with a new member of staff having been appointed, and the school is now in a formal shared education partnership with a local maintained primary school. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 8 and 9 of April 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 principal and the designated governor for child protection co-operated 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
- 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. The children, with whom the inspector met, spoke positively about how well they are cared for and supported; they reported that they feel safe and happy in school and know what to do, and whom to talk to, if they have any concerns about their safety and well-being. 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. The school needs to complete its development of a relationships and sexuality education (RSE) policy.

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.

Health and Safety

- The external disabled entrance does not have the appropriate electronic control system.
- The internal doors lack electronic access controls to enable wheelchair users to access the building independently.

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