

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Omagh County Primary School,  
Omagh, County Tyrone

Controlled, co-educational

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



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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Omagh County Primary School, Omagh, County Tyrone (201-2691)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in September 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Omagh County Primary School as good<sup>1</sup>. The principal and most of the staff are in post since the last inspection. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 9 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 the teachers, including the 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

### **Key findings**

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the line 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 revised staff code of conduct and the relationships and sexuality policies are awaiting ratification by the board of governors.

The ETI met with a group of year 6 children; they described the caring and supportive learning environment, and reported that they feel very safe and secure. They understand what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or well-being. The children enjoy a range of outings; and, they contribute to the life and work of the school through the school council and by taking responsibility for themselves and others. 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.

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<sup>1</sup>From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as a school demonstrating capacity for to identify areas for improvement.

## **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.

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