

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Portrush Primary School,
County Antrim

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Portrush Primary School, County Antrim (301-0847)

Introduction

The previous inspection in November 2013, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Portrush Primary School as very good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 28 March 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 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 selected by the school, and agreed with the inspectors, during the SII were:

- the quality of the arrangements and out workings of the mathematics provision; and
- the quality of the arrangements and out-workings of the assessment provision.

Key findings

- The strategic leadership of mathematics is well-informed, reflective and focused on improving the provision for the children and associated learning outcomes. There have been notable changes made to the schemes of work in mathematics that have impacted positively on the quality of the provision and the children's learning experiences: during the discussion with a group of year 6 children, the children spoke cheerfully and confidently about their learning in mathematics.
- The school collects a wide range of performance data on the children, which it uses to set individual targets, monitor progress and target appropriate intervention where necessary.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines of enquiry in mathematics and assessment fully; and
- the quality of the teachers' planning for learning, the learning and teaching within the classrooms and the standard of the children's work in their books.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated 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 satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The children reported that they feel safe in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned about their safety or 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.

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.

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