

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Rosetta Primary School, Belfast

Controlled, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
Department for the Economy
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CUSTOMER
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EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Rosetta Primary School, Belfast, County Antrim (101-0157)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Rosetta Primary School as good¹. A new principal was appointed in September 2017. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 5 March 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 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 during the SII were:

- to enhance opportunities for numeracy across the curriculum; and
- to continue to develop leadership at all levels in order to embed and take forward good practice.

Key findings

The school has used both quantitative and qualitative data to identify areas for further development in numeracy. The teachers have developed planning with a particular focus on integrating numeracy across the curriculum. The children report that they enjoy the variety of numeracy opportunities they have across the curriculum, particularly in science.

- A review of leadership roles has been undertaken and staff are engaging in regular monitoring and evaluation of their curricular area of responsibility. A consistency of approach, opportunity to enhance the collegial sharing of good practice and reporting to governors should be further developed.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education (DE). During the discussion with a group of children from year 6, the children reported that they feel happy and safe within the school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being. It will be important that the school expedites the current review of policies to reflect DE requirements.

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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