

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Brigid's Primary School, Tirkane/Bunscoil
Naomh Bríd, Maghera, County Derry

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Brigid's Primary School, Tirkane/Bunscoil Naomh Bríd, Maghera, County Derry (303-2018)

Introduction

The previous inspection in February 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Brigid's Primary School/Bunscoil Naomh Bríd as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 23 April 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 principal and teachers 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 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 reported that they feel safe and happy in school and know what to do if they have any concerns 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 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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

Health and Safety

1. Prior to the last inspection in February 2015, a review of the school's access and security arrangements had been completed by the North Eastern Education and Library Board. The inspection report noted that the recommendations of the review needed to be put in place as a matter of urgency to address the associated health and safety risks to the children.
2. At the time of the inspection, recommendations pertaining to the security of the site, including the installation of perimeter fencing, have not been addressed. Three minor works applications in relation to these health and safety matters have been submitted by the school.

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