

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Eugene's Primary School,
Omagh, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

Report of a Sustaining Improvement
Inspection (Involving Action Short of
Strike) in June 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 Eugene's Primary School, Omagh, County Tyrone (203-2688)

Introduction

The previous inspection in May 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Eugene's Primary School as good¹. There is a newly appointed principal in post since the previous inspection. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 7 June 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 would not be co-operating fully 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 group of children from years 5 and 6 reported that they enjoy the extra-curricular events organised through the school and the local community. They have opportunities to take on leadership roles through their involvement in the 'Princess Diana Award.'

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the line of inquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.
- It will be important that the employing authority, school governors and the staff plan for, and manage, issues related to the sustainability of the school provision and the school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

¹From September 2015, a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as demonstrating 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). The Child Protection policy and the safeguarding team's roles and responsibilities are being updated and reviewed by the board of governors to reflect the DE guidance; the revisions are to be shared with the parents. A group of children from years 5 and 6 reported that they feel safe 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 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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