

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Eugene's Primary School,  
Strabane, County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

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

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The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Eugene's Primary School, Strabane, County Tyrone (203-2682)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in October 2014 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Eugene's Primary School as very good<sup>1</sup>. In June 2016, the follow-up inspection of the school's reception provision concluded that the school demonstrated a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. Since the time of the primary inspection, the proportion of children identified by the school as requiring additional support with aspects of their learning has decreased by 11 percentage points to 18%. A new principal took up post in December 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 6 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 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**

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 and sustain improvement through self-evaluation and effective school development planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

## **Key findings**

- The year 6 children spoke of the school's friendly and supportive learning environment both inside and outside the classroom.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- lines 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 school budget, in order to address the current and future needs of the children and the staff.

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<sup>1</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously 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 arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education (DE). The children reported that they feel safe in school and that they are aware of 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 principal and teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, and 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.

**Health and safety**

1. The school has assessed the risks surrounding the security arrangements of the access to and within the school grounds. An application for minor works funding regarding this has been submitted.
2. The school has precautions in place to manage a trip hazard in the playground.

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