

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Joseph's Primary School,
Killough, County Down

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Joseph's Primary School, Killough (403-6016)

Introduction

The previous inspection in December 2013, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Joseph's Primary School as good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 12 June 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

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 planning; and
- lines of inquiry were not selected 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.

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.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly² the guidance issued by the relevant Departments. The following planned actions need to be completed:

- completion of updated safeguarding training for the designated governor;
- review of the anti-bullying and behaviour policies to reflect recent guidance from the Department of Education; and

¹ A school evaluated previously as good has been reported as the school demonstrating the capacity to identify and bring about improvement.

² From January 2017, arrangements evaluated previously as satisfactory are reported as reflect broadly the guidance.

- ratification of the relationship and sexuality education policy and online safety policy.

The children reported that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. 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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