

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

St Mary's Primary School,  
Derrytrasna, Lurgan, County Armagh

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
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## **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Mary's Primary School, Derrytrasna, Lurgan, County Antrim (503-6009)**

### **Introduction**

The previous inspection in February 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Mary's Primary School as good. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 18 September 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 the 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**

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 line of inquiry selected by the school, and agreed with the inspector, during the SII was:

- the capacity of the curriculum leaders for literacy and numeracy to contribute to the school improvement process through more systematic monitoring and evaluation of the quality of learning and teaching.

### **Key findings**

- Co-ordinators for numeracy and literacy have been appointed since the last inspection, and they have completed comprehensive, professional development for their curriculum and leadership roles. Their strategic leadership is skilful, well-informed, and focused on improving the learning and teaching, and is impacting positively on the outcomes for the children.
- The school leadership and co-ordinators monitor, evaluate and analyse effectively a wide range of performance data pertaining to the children. This information is used rigorously to identify underachievement, set individual targets, track progress and provide appropriate interventions where necessary, resulting in progressive improvement in the children's outcomes.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the quality of the 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 in school. They know what to do and who to talk to if they are concerned 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.

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