

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Patrick's Primary School, Magheralin,
Craigavon, County Armagh

Maintained, co-educational

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



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 Patrick's Primary School, Magheralin, County Armagh (503-1667)

Introduction

The previous inspection in December 2012, evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's Primary School as very good¹. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 28 March 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, including the principal, 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 improvement through self-evaluation and effective school planning; and
- lines of enquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines of enquiry; and
- the quality of learning and teaching within the classrooms.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that satisfactory arrangements for safeguarding reflect broadly the guidance issued by the relevant Departments.

Work on the following aspects is underway and needs to be completed:

- to review the safeguarding policies as planned.

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.

¹ From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school previously evaluated as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

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.

Health and Safety

1. There is a need to review the door access to one of the mobile classrooms so that the safety of the children and staff is not compromised.

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