

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Patrick's Primary School, Moneymore, County Derry

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (503-6120)

Report of a Sustaining Improvement Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike) in May 2019



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education
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Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Patrick's Primary School, Moneymore, County Derry (503-6120)

Introduction

The previous inspection in February 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Patrick's Primary School as having a high capacity for sustained improvement. In the interim, the accommodation was enhanced and extended through minor works. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 13 May 2019.

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 principal co-operated with the inspection in relation to safeguarding responsibilities. 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 inquiry were not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- A group of year 6 children spoke positively about their learning and progress across the curriculum and the support they receive from the staff. They highlighted their enjoyment of learning with their friends from the shared education partnership school and their participation in a wide range of extra-curricular and after-school activities. The children explained how, as 'digital leaders' and 'playground friends', they and their peers support the learning and development of others, and how they contribute to aspects of decision-making through the School Council.
- 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.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the lines of inquiry; and
- the quality of 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. 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. A group of year six children reported that they are happy and safe at school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.

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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