

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Paul's Primary School and Necarne
Nursery Unit, Irvinestown,
County Fermanagh

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

Providing inspection services for:

Department of Education
Department for the Economy
and other commissioning Departments

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Paul's Primary School and Necarne Nursery Unit, Irvinestown, County Fermanagh (203-1898)

Introduction

The previous inspection in June 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Paul's Primary School as good¹. The principal is newly appointed since the last inspection. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 3 May 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 the teachers, including the principal, 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

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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- A group of year 6 children spoke with pride about the school achieving the Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Award and described the caring and supportive learning environment. They enjoy a range of outings; and, the children contribute to the life and work of the school through the Eco- and School- councils and by taking responsibility for the environment, themselves and others.

The ETI was unable to evaluate fully:

- the line 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. The ETI met with a group of year 6 children who reported that they feel very safe and secure. They understand 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.

¹From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as good has been reported as a school demonstrating capacity for to identify areas for 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.

© CROWN COPYRIGHT 2018

This report may be reproduced in whole or in part, except for commercial purposes or in connection with a prospectus or advertisement, provided that the source and date thereof are stated.

Copies of this report are available on the ETI website: www.etini.gov.uk