

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Peter's and St Paul's Primary School, Foreglen, County Derry

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No: 203-6085

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

Introduction

The previous inspection in September 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Peter's and St Paul's Primary School as having the capacity to identify and bring about improvement. In the interim, there have been significant changes in the leadership and teaching staff. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 10 December 2019.

The teaching unions which make up the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) have declared industrial action primarily in relation to a pay dispute and also workload and other management issues. 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 inspection. The senior leadership co-operated with the inspection team in relation to their 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
- a line of inquiry was not selected by the school from the development plan priorities.

Key findings

- The year 6 children, who met with the inspectors, spoke positively about their enjoyment of school and the opportunities they have to develop leadership capabilities through, for example, the 'digital leaders', children's safeguarding teams and their roles in the school- and eco-councils.
- The children reported that they appreciate the support they receive from their teachers and the opportunities they have to use a range of digital and online resources in their learning.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- 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 children report that they feel safe in the school and, in particular, are secure in their knowledge about how to keep safe online. 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. The school is a high priority for future inspection with no further notice.

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