

PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

St Ronan's Primary School, Omagh
County Tyrone

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate
Promoting Improvement

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CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Ronan's Primary School, Omagh, County Tyrone (203-2704)

Introduction

The previous inspection in October 2014, evaluated the overall effectiveness of Recarson Primary School, now known as St Ronan's Primary School, as outstanding. In the interim, there has been a change in senior leadership with the appointment of a new principal in 2016. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 18 October 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 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

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 school also provided evidence of provision for safeguarding as part of the inspection.

The line of inquiry during the SII was:

- the involvement of the parents and the children in the use of problem-solving strategies in the mathematics provision in order to maintain the outstanding standards.

Key findings

- The strategic leadership and management of the mathematics provision is underpinned by robust action planning and is informed by reflective use of evidence about learning and teaching. The staff have developed additional resources and lessons with a whole-school focus on progression in problem-solving.
- In discussion, with a group of year 7 children about mathematics and numeracy, they were able to use and apply accurately a range of strategies to explain place value and number operations. The children's mental mathematical strategies were secure in number, time and weight.

The ETI was unable to evaluate:

- the line of inquiry in mathematics including the impact of parental involvement fully;
- the quality of the teachers' planning for learning, the learning and teaching within the classrooms; and

- the standard of the children's work in their books.
- 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.

Safeguarding

During the inspection, the school provided evidence that arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance issued by 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. The group of year 6 children spoke positively about their learning experiences, the importance of developing creativity and the use of imagination, and the relevance of fairness in their working relationships with one another. 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. This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

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