

Education and Training Inspectorate

PRIMARY INSPECTION



St Trea's Primary School, Ballymaguigan, County Derry

Maintained, co-educational DE Ref No (303-2185)

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

Sustaining Improvement Inspection of St Trea's Primary School, Ballymaguigan, County Derry (303-2185)

Introduction

The previous inspection in January 2016 evaluated the overall effectiveness of St Trea's Primary School as having a high level of capacity for sustained improvement. In the interim, a new principal has been appointed and the Education Authority has erected fencing to enhance the security of the site. The school continues to participate in a shared education partnership with a local controlled primary school. A sustaining improvement inspection was conducted on 25 February 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 and designated teacher for child protection 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

- A group of year 6 children, who met with the inspectors, highlighted the caring nature of their teachers, their enjoyment of participating in a shared education partnership and their appreciation of the extra-curricular activities available to them. They develop effectively their leadership capabilities through the School Council and the 'playground pals' scheme.

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. In discussion with a group of year 6 children, they reported that they feel safe in school and are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare. The children know how to keep safe online, when at school or at home.

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.

APPENDIX

Health and safety/Accommodation

1. There is unsecured access between the car park and the school site. The school has a risk assessment with risk reduction measures in place.
2. Three of the internal classrooms do not have viewing panels in the doors.

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