

# PRIMARY INSPECTION



Education and Training  
Inspectorate

Steelstown Primary School and Nursery  
Unit, Steelstown, County Derry

Maintained, co-educational

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



The Education and Training Inspectorate  
Promoting Improvement

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Department of Education  
Department for the Economy  
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# **Sustaining Improvement Inspection of Steelstown Primary School and Nursery Unit, Steelstown, County Derry (203-6084)**

## **Introduction**

The previous inspection in March 2015 evaluated the overall effectiveness of Steelstown Primary School and Nursery Unit as very good<sup>1</sup>. In the interim, there has been a change in senior leadership. A sustaining improvement inspection (SII) was conducted on 14 March 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 none of the staff 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**

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**

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. In discussion with a group of children in year 6, they reported that they feel safe in school and know what to do and who to talk to if they have concerns 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.

## **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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<sup>1</sup> From September 2015, the overall effectiveness of a school evaluated previously as outstanding or very good has been reported as a school demonstrating a high level of capacity for sustained improvement.

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