

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

POST-PRIMARY INSPECTION

Erne Integrated College, Enniskillen,
County Fermanagh

Grant maintained integrated, co-educational, non-selective, 11-18 school
DE Ref No. 226-0280

Report of a Follow-Up Inspection (Involving Action Short of Strike)
in March 2023



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Third follow-up inspection visit to Erne Integrated College, Enniskillen, County Fermanagh (226-0280)

Introduction

The [original inspection](#) of Erne Integrated College was carried out in April 2012 when the school's education provision was evaluated as having important areas for improvement (an ETI evaluation of 'satisfactory' in 2012 resulted in a follow-up inspection; it now equates to an ETI evaluation of 'important areas for improvement').

A [follow-up inspection](#) took place in June 2015 when limited progress was noted. A [second follow-up inspection](#), which was impacted by industrial action short of strike, took place in May 2017. Inspectors were unable to evaluate the extent to which the important areas for improvement left at the original inspection had been addressed, namely to:

- raise the standards attained by the pupils at key stage (KS) 4;
- make effective use of internal and external data to inform a more accurate and reliable target-setting process and to monitor and evaluate the impact of the intervention strategies and improvement work;
- improve further the effectiveness of the self-evaluation process at all levels across the school; and
- improve the quality of learning and teaching, including a dissemination of the more effective practice.

Consequently, Erne Integrated College remained in the follow-up process.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) inspectors carried out a progress Monitoring Visit in May 2022. Based on the evidence available at the time of the Monitoring Visit, the areas for improvement from the original inspection were adjusted to include the need to:

- make effective use of internal and external data to inform a more accurate and reliable target-setting process and to monitor and evaluate the impact of the intervention strategies and improvement work;
- improve further the effectiveness of the self-evaluation process at all levels across the school; and
- improve the quality of learning and teaching, including a dissemination of the more effective practice.

A third follow-up inspection was carried out in March 2023 which was also impacted by action short of strike. (At the time of the follow-up inspection, members of the five main teaching unions in Northern Ireland were mandated by their unions to participate in legitimate industrial action short of strike, which includes not engaging with ETI inspections.)

Prior to the inspection, the school informed the ETI that due to industrial action short of strike by the teaching unions, the school would co-operate with the inspection in relation to elements of the school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils.

The ETI has a [statutory duty](#) to monitor, inspect and report on the quality of education being provided for children and young people. The follow-up inspection proceeded on a partial basis as outlined above and the key findings are based on evidence made available at the time of the inspection visit.

Key actions and changes

In the interval since the original inspection, the school received external support provided by the Education Authority (EA) in relation to:

- aspects of learning and teaching; and
- participation of a small number of staff in accredited leadership courses.

Views of pupils, parents/carers and staff

The school did not distribute questionnaires to the pupils, parents/carers and staff. Therefore, it is not possible to report on the views of the pupils, parents/carers and staff. The ETI intends to re-issue the questionnaires at the time of the next inspection visit to complete the evidence base for the follow-up inspection.

Key findings in relation to Safeguarding

- Inspectors were unable to evaluate the progress against the areas for improvement. Teachers did not facilitate observation of lessons by the inspectors.

The following findings are based on the evidence available at the time of the follow-up inspection.

- In discussion with the inspectors, the pupils from across the year groups report that they feel safe in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being; they appreciate the work of the approachable and supportive staff; and they enjoy their learning and are confident that they are making progress. The older pupils report that they would like more opportunities to contribute more fully to relevant aspects of the life and work of the school which affect them directly.
- The school's arrangements for safeguarding are unsatisfactory.

The areas which must be improved urgently include:

- providing the staff with the relevant training in relation to child protection and safeguarding; and
- ensuring the procedures for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding are robust, including the review and update of key safeguarding and child protection policies.

Conclusion

The school's third follow-up inspection is incomplete. The areas for improvement, which were adjusted at the time of the Monitoring Visit in May 2022, remain as the need to:

- make effective use of internal and external data to inform a more accurate and reliable target-setting process and to monitor and evaluate the impact of the intervention strategies and improvement work;
- improve further the effectiveness of the self-evaluation process at all levels across the school; and
- improve the quality of learning and teaching, including a dissemination of the more effective practice.

The ETI has been unable to evaluate the school's progress in effecting the required improvements in the quality of its provision for a period of almost eight years since the first follow-up inspection.

The District Inspector will continue to monitor the school's progress, and the follow-up inspection may be completed at the request of the school up to and including June 2023. Subsequently, the inspection will be completed without further notice.

The ETI will return to the school within six weeks to evaluate and report on the progress in addressing the unsatisfactory arrangements for safeguarding.

Addendum to the report on the inspection of Erne Integrated College, May 2023

Safeguarding

The Education and Training Inspectorate returned to Erne Integrated College on 17 May 2023 to carry out a safeguarding follow-up to the inspection which took place on 6 March 2023. The purpose of the visit was to monitor and report on the school's progress in addressing the two areas for improvement relating to the school's arrangements for safeguarding pupils, which were evaluated as unsatisfactory at the time of the inspection.

Prior to the safeguarding follow-up inspection, the school informed the ETI that the inspection would be impacted by the action short of strike by the teaching unions and that, with the exception of the safeguarding team, none of the teachers would be engaging with the inspection.

Subsequent to the follow-up inspection on 6 March 2023, the school received support from the Education Authority's Child Protection Support Service to address the areas for improvement relating to safeguarding pupils.

Key Findings

- All of the staff have participated in training to raise awareness of how to safeguard pupils.
- The senior leaders have reviewed and updated key policies relating to child protection and safeguarding pupils.
- There is no longer a full quorum of governors, and as a result, there is no chair of governors or designated governor for safeguarding in place.

The ETI will monitor the procedures for the monitoring and evaluating, including the governance, of the arrangements for safeguarding pupils as part of the school's follow-up inspection which remains incomplete.

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