

EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSPECTORATE

# PRE-SCHOOL INSPECTION

## Naíscoil na Daróige, Derry

Irish-medium voluntary pre-school, DE Ref No 2BB-0511

### Report of a Follow-up Inspection (Involving Action of Strike) in December 2022



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Department of Education  
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# Follow-up to the inspection of Naíscoil na Daróige, Derry, BT48 0ND (2BB-0511)

## Context

The naíscoil was [originally inspected in January 2019](#) and was evaluated as having important areas for improvement, namely to:

- review the organisation of the day to ensure that children benefit from long periods of sustained free play that is not overly adult-directed;
- make effective use of the observations and assessment of the children's learning to inform future planning and provide progression in learning for all of the children;
- develop a robust process of self-evaluation and action planning leading to improvement in the quality of provision and the outcomes for the children; and
- develop further the capacity of the assistants in the Irish language.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in September 2019 and a monitoring visit in March 2022.

The follow-up inspection, carried out in December 2022 was impacted by industrial action short of strike (at the time of the follow-up inspection, some of the staff were mandated by their union to participate in legitimate action short of strike, which includes not engaging with ETI inspections). The inspectors met with the leader and representatives of the management committee and reviewed a range of relevant documentation. Inspectors were unable to observe learning and teaching. As a result, the naíscoil was unable to provide a complete inspection evidence base to demonstrate the naíscoil's progress in addressing the areas for improvement identified in the original inspection report. The ETI has a [statutory duty](#) to monitor, inspect and report on the quality of education being provided for children and young people. Therefore, the inspection proceeded on a partial basis and the key findings in this report are based on the evidence made available at the time of the inspection visit.

## Key actions and changes

In the interval since the original inspection, the naíscoil staff and management committee have received external support, from an early years specialist from Altram, with aspects of provision for learning and leadership and management.

The following are the key actions or changes which affect the work of the naíscoil.

- The naíscoil development plan and action plans were updated in light of the inspection findings.

- A number of significant staffing and management changes were made, which included the appointment of: a new leader and naíscail assistants; a new chairperson and members of the management committee; and an early years specialist from Altram.
- The Irish language capacity of all the staff has improved significantly.
- The cycle of planning, observation and assessment was reviewed and amended.
- The organisation of the session and layout of the playroom was changed, and a sensory room was developed.
- A collaborative process of self-evaluation and planning for improvement was established.
- The naíscail developed partnerships with other settings, both from within and beyond the Irish-medium sector.

## Key findings

Inspectors were unable to evaluate the quality of the outcomes for learners, provision for learning, and the effectiveness of leadership and management. The following findings are based on the evidence available at the time of the follow-up inspection.

- A revised cycle of planning, observation and assessment is being used systematically by the staff to inform short-term planning and track progression of individual children.
- A revised organisation of the day and layout of the playroom has been put in place to afford the children extended opportunities to engage in more child-led play.
- A collegial process of self-evaluation and action planning is now in place. Leaders at all levels are well-informed about, collaborative and wholly committed to, the continuous improvement of the naíscail.
- Inspectors can only evaluate and affirm the impact of the actions taken to effect improvement in the quality of the provision through observation of practice at the time of the next inspection visit.

## Safeguarding

In meetings with inspectors, the leader and representatives of the management committee in the naíscail engaged in discussions about the procedures and arrangements for safeguarding children and provided a range of relevant safeguarding documentation. The policies and associated procedures reviewed are in line with guidance from the relevant departments. There is, however, insufficient evidence for ETI to evaluate the naíscail's arrangements for safeguarding the children.

## Conclusion

The naíscóil's follow-up inspection is incomplete due to the industrial action short of strike. Given the progress evidenced to date, the revised area for improvement is now to:

- continue to embed, monitor and evaluate the actions taken to bring about improvement in relation to: the organisation of the session; the cycle of planning, observation and assessment; and the process of self-evaluation and planning for improvement.

The ETI has been unable to evaluate the naíscóil's progress in effecting the required improvements in the quality of its education provision for a period of four years. The ETI will continue to monitor the naíscóil's progress, and the follow-up inspection will be completed at the request of the naíscóil up to and including April 2023. Subsequently, the inspection will be completed without further notice.

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