

EOTAS INSPECTION



Education and Training
Inspectorate

Shanmullagh, Ballinamallard
EOTAS, County Fermanagh

Report of a Follow-up Inspection
(Involving Action Short of Strike)
in May 2019

FOLLOW-UP TO THE INSPECTION OF SHANMULLAGH, BALLINAMALLARD EOTAS, COUNTY FERMANAGH

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) carried out an inspection of Shanmullagh EOTAS in November 2017¹ which concluded that the centre needed to address important areas for improvement in the interest of all the learners.

The areas for improvement identified in the inspection were the need to:

- review the model of provision for KS3 for more effective collaboration with referring schools to effect re-integration of pupils to their schools;
- ensure more effective engagement in vocational courses and provide the pupils with a greater range of subjects through part-time study in their mainstream schools; and
- have higher expectations for the pupils' outcomes and opportunities to study at GCSE level.

The centre's action plans were of a good quality and included key actions to promote improvement.

The ETI carried out an interim follow-up visit in May 2018 and a follow-up inspection in May 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 organisation informed the ETI that none of the teachers would be co-operating with the inspectors. The ETI have 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.

In the interval since the initial inspection, the following actions or changes which affect the work of the centre have taken place:

- a permanent adviser for post primary behaviour support and provisions was appointed in November 2018 with responsibility for the line management of staff and the further development of the centre; and
- the model of provision has changed and the centre now only provides education for pupils in key stage 4.

¹ [Education Other Than At School Inspection - Shanmullagh, Ballinamallard, County Fermanagh](#)

Key Findings

The centre is able to demonstrate that all of the pupils have improved their attendance since coming to the centre. The data from the previous academic year indicates that all of the pupils who left the centre maintained their vocational placements and achieved appropriate qualifications in a range of subjects.

All of the present cohort of pupils are engaging in vocational education courses that interest and engage them. The pupils study a wide range of subjects within the centre including opportunities to study at GCSE level. Some pupils have attained GCSE qualifications or equivalent in, for example, mathematics, literacy, numeracy and information communication technology (ICT).

The centre management have reviewed both the model of provision and the relevant resources. They have improved the provision for ICT as well as access to transport to provide activities and experiences for pupils outside the centre. The centre have a new service level agreement with schools to provide opportunities for their pupils to return to school on a part time basis to study. However, so far, no pupils have yet returned to study part time in their referring school. At the time of the follow-up inspection one KS3 pupil has been placed in the centre in exceptional circumstances as a temporary measure. It is a matter of concern that there is no dedicated KS3 EOTAS provision in this locality.

Owing to action short of strike the ETI was unable to evaluate fully the impact of actions taken to address and resolve the three areas for improvement reported in November 2017.

Conclusion

Owing to the impact of the action short of strike being taken by the teachers, the ETI is unable to assure parents/carers, the wider school community and stakeholders of the quality of education being provided for the pupils.

This will be reflected in future inspection activity.

The ETI will monitor and report on the centre's progress in addressing the areas for improvement.

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